

**Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 6 June 2023**

**Written question from Vicki Ranson of Ryde to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee**

According to the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, 3 areas on the Isle of Wight, Ryde North-East, Pan A and B were ranked as among the most deprived in England. There is a strong link between deprivation and low educational attainment. In October 2021, the Isle of Wight Council were questioned over their commitment to tackling island poverty. From my understanding, the IW Council have approved plans to build 474 new houses on the West Acre site, which neighbours this deprivation area. The IW Council have approved closure of a local dairy farm, kept the local water park shut from the community and now threatened closure of a School.

With the announcements of the potential closure of St Mary's a well-attended, community focused school, how does the IW Council expect to support families and their children in breaking the cycle of deprivation?

## **Response**

*Thank you for your recent question submitted to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee about the primary school place planning paper that was due to be discussed at the Isle of Wight Cabinet on Thursday 8 June 2023.*

*The Isle of Wight Council's Children's Services Management Team were asked to draft this paper following a discussion on forecast pupil numbers at the September 2022 Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services, Education and Skills.*

*However, as the Cabinet has decided that the paper will no longer be presented and therefore the recommendations will not be taken forward for public consultation, a response to your questions is no longer appropriate.*

*It is important to note that the questions submitted are exactly the type of queries we would have been seeking during the consultation, had the decision been made on 8 June for the consultation to begin. It was intended that officers would have attended public meetings to explore these issues in full. After the consultation the views of all those contributing to the debate would have been shared with Cabinet and fully considered before any final proposals were made for further consultation.*

*It is our experience that such consultations have been meaningful and have often led to better decision making with proposals being refined before further statutory consultation.*

*Should Cabinet decide to undertake a consultation in the future I would urge you to contribute with queries such as these to the discussions at that time.*