

**Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 6 June 2023**

**Written question from Cathryn Grosvenor of Wootton to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee**

If you were to close and sell the St Mary's site (remembering that the diocese and parents have been responsible for 10% of the school's funding), then housing would be a seemingly obvious use for the land. Have you considered where incoming families will send their children to school, with parents having the right to choose a faith-based education for their children, how will you ensure that you provide such a choice when you have targeted the one Catholic school in the area for closure?

***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.*