

**Policy and Scrutiny Committee Children's Services, Education and Skills –  
15 June 2023**

**Written question from Simon Richards, Chair of Governors, Haylands Primary School to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee Children's Services, Education and Skills**

I refer to my question PQ-09-23 regarding school place planning to the meeting of this committee on 2nd March 2023 in response to which the Cabinet Member for Children's Services stated that a Strategic Place Plan for Island Schools is on the Forward Plan and scheduled for the 8th June Cabinet meeting. I am aware from media reports that the paper proposing four school closures was withdrawn and not discussed at Cabinet, although this paper made no reference to a Strategic Place Plan. Has this committee seen the Strategic Place Plan and what update can be provided on next steps given that a Strategic Place Plan is not included in the current version of the Forward Plan?

## ***Response***

*The report that was due to be taken on the 8 June to Cabinet and was published on Friday 26 May (School Place Planning report), but was subsequently withdrawn before being debated, set out how the Council intended to manage surplus places in island primary schools in the short to mid-term. It sought authority to consult on a number of possible school closures as an initial phase and explained that further interventions might be required if the number of primary children on the Island continued to decline longer-term, as predicted."*

*The Administration fully understands the critical importance of taking action in the short-term to manage the chronic over-supply of school places in the primary sector, and the importance of the School Place Planning report coming back onto the Cabinet agenda at a future date.*