

Report of Urgent Action

- 1** Under regulation 19 of the The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 the County Council is required to receive a report from the Leader on any decisions taken under regulation 11. These are key decisions which were not in the Forward Plan and which needed to be taken with less than five clear days' notice. Such urgent decisions can only be taken with the agreement of the relevant Select Committee Chairman. Key decisions taken with less than five clear days' notice which are in the Forward Plan are reported via the Executive Decision Database.
- 2** Such action is avoided wherever possible as it circumvents the normal mechanism for publication of decisions and ensuring that members have the opportunity to comment before decisions are taken.
- 3** However, on occasions this is not possible and the County Council is asked to note the following decision which has been taken by the Director of Law and Assurance with the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Finance (currently supporting this area of the Education and Skills portfolio) and the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee.

The proposed expansion of primary and secondary schools in West Sussex from September 2017

- 4** The County Council has a statutory duty to commission sufficient school places for children and young people across the county. Officers have been closely monitoring the number of children to ensure schools can meet the demand for places. The County Council has received evidence of further growth in the number of children both at primary and secondary level. This is in part due to an increase in the birth rate and also in response to migration and housing building.
- 5** The County Council, together with local schools, put forward proposals to cater for the extra numbers. The proposals were subject to full public consultation and the individual governing bodies, with the exception of Blackwell Primary School in East Grinstead, agreed in principle to progress with building projects. Planning applications must be made to ensure the places can be delivered for September 2017. The decision is subject to final decisions being taken by each school affected.
- 6** Approval has therefore been given for the expansion of nine individual schools for September 2017 as set out below. Approval has also been given to the start of the planning application and procurement process for the schemes.
 - Angmering Secondary School increase from a Published Admission Number of 252 places to a 9 forms of entry (270 places) per year;
 - St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, Angmering, increase from a Published Admission Number of 20 places to 1 form entry (30 places) per year;
 - Chidham Parochial Primary School, increase from a Published Admission Number of 20 places to 1 form entry (30 places) per year;

- Compton and Up Marden CE Primary School increase from a Published Admission Number of 15 (105 places) to a Published Admission Number of 20 (140 places) per year;
 - Funtington Primary School, increase from a Published Admission Number of 15 places to a Published Admission Number of 20 places per year;
 - Bourne Community College, Southbourne, increase from 5 forms of entry (150 places) to 6 forms of entry (180 places) per year;
 - The Meads Primary School, East Grinstead, increase by an extra class (30 places);
 - Sompting Village Primary School, increase from a 2 form entry school (60 places) to a 3 form entry (90 places) per year
 - St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, Littlehampton, increase from a 1 form entry school (30 places) to a 2 form entry (60 places) per year.
- 7 The expansion of Blackwell Primary School has not been supported as the numbers of children for entry in 2017 are lower than anticipated and expansion has been opposed by the wider community. The original proposal was for:
- Blackwell Primary School, East Grinstead, increase from a 2 form entry school (60 places) to a 3 form entry (90 places) per year.
- 8 The reason for urgency was that it was necessary to make the planning applications to ensure that the places can be delivered for September 2017.

Louise Goldsmith

Leader

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Background Papers

Letters from the Director of Law and Assurance to the [Cabinet Member for Finance](#) and the [Chairman of the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee](#) dated 8 March 2017.