

158. Consultation on the Commissioning of a New Primary School for East Wichel, Swindon

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Group Director, Children submitted a joint report concerning the arrangements for establishing a new primary school at East Wichel, part of the Wichelstowe development area. The Chair welcomed Mr. John Gilbert, the Council's new Group Director, Children to his first meeting of the Council's Cabinet. Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, referred to the background to the provision of the proposed new primary school and explained that its establishment would be subject to the new competition regulations introduced by the Department for Children, Schools and Families in 2007. He expressed his support for the school being run as a Community School. Councillor Perkins expressed his support for the establishment of "school safety zones" for both new and existing schools. He explained how these were likely to reflect different needs for different schools and would link to the work undertaken to establish "safer routes to schools". He believed that the Council should investigate the feasibility of establishing such zones in Swindon where appropriate.

Resolved – (1) That the responses to the pre-statutory consultation carried out on the proposals for a new primary school for East Wichel, as set out in the joint report, be noted.

(2) That the Group Director, Children be authorised to apply for the consent of the Secretary of State to publish proposals for a Community Primary School for East Wichel, Swindon.

(3) That the Group Director, Children be authorised to publish a formal notice inviting bids to run the proposed new school for East Wichel in accordance with the Competition Regulations 2007.

(4) That the Director of Highways, in consultation with the Group Director, Children, be requested to submit a report to a future Cabinet meeting on the establishment of School Safety Zones in Swindon.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.