

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Education held at 2.30 pm on
Wednesday, 8 July 2015

Present:

Members: Councillor D Kershaw (Cabinet Member)
 Councillor S Thomas (Deputy Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate):

People K Nelson (Director of Education), P Barnett, P Weston

Resources L Knight

Public Business

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Kershaw declared an interest in the matter referred to in Minute 4, headed "Appointment of Local Authority Governors" in so far as he was an existing Governor of Hollyfast Primary School.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

3. Petitions- Save Allesley Park Library and Save Stoke Aldermoor Community Library

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of People, which responded to a number of petitions which had been presented to the Council asking to reconsider making cuts to local library services.

An e-petition headed "Save Allesley Park Library from Government forced cuts" bearing 168 signatures was sponsored by Councillor Singh, a Whoberley Ward Councillor, who was invited to the meeting but was unable to attend.

A further e-petition headed "Save Aldermoor Community Library" bearing 7 signatures was organised by a local resident, who was also invited to the meeting but was unable to attend.

The Cabinet Member noted that the City Council currently operated a Library Service comprising Central Library plus 16 community libraries, a mobile service and an at home service. The petitions referred to individual libraries:

- Aldermoor Library located in Acorn Street, Stoke Aldermoor - one of the City's smaller libraries, which was re-located to a building previously used as a shop (part of a small retail development) in October 2007.

- Allesley Park Library - a modern purpose built library, part of Allesley Park Neighbourhood Centre in Whitaker Road, Allesley Park. The library opened in July 2011 and the building was shared by a local GP practice and Pharmacy. The Centre was adjacent to the Wilfred Spencer Centre.

The petitions submitted related to genuine concern from local residents regarding the level of service reductions that may need to be considered by Coventry City Council. It was a reality that the City Council would have to make significant reductions in the amount of money it spent as a result of Government funding reductions. These reductions had required the Council to carefully consider all the various services it spent money on and this included libraries.

The way in which library provision was provided across the city could be considered within service reviews. The challenges faced by the City Council presented the opportunity to reflect on changing patterns of library use, and the changing needs of library users. The Council was currently exploring whether there were any alternative models of delivery which would retain services but deliver significantly reduced costs to the Council. Options would include the co-location of different services and opportunities to co-operate with statutory and non-statutory partners in the City.

It was noted that no decisions had been taken regarding the closure of any of the City's libraries and that any future proposals to make changes to the library service would be subject to public consultation. Officers would work over the coming months with the various groups and individuals who had expressed an interest in library services to see if they could work with the Council to deliver a better service at reduced cost.

In considering the report, the Cabinet Member requested that an offer be made to meet with residents from Stoke Aldermoor and Allesley Park in relation to the Libraries within the neighbourhoods should this be required.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Education notes the petitions and requests that Officers write to the petition organisers to advise them of the Council's current position and assure them that the petitioners will be encouraged to participate in any discussions in relation to the future of library services in Coventry.

4. **Appointment of Local Authority Governors**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of People which proposed appointments and re-appointments of Local Authority Governors.

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Education proposed that Councillor Kershaw be re-appointed to Hollyfast Primary School.

RESOLVED that, having met the Local Authority criteria for the appointment of Local Authority Governors, the Cabinet Member for Education approves the appointment, recommended appointments and re-appointments of the persons listed below for the schools and terms of office indicated:-

Local Authority Governor: Recommendations for Appointment

Name	School	Term of Office
Mr George Jones	St Augustine's Catholic Primary School	7 July 2019

Local Authority Governor: Re-Appointments

Name	School	Term of Office
Mrs F Cipolat	Corley Centre	29 June 2019
Mr D Howells	Hearsall Community Primary School	29 June 2019
Cllr D Kershaw	Hollyfast Primary School	29 June 2019
Cllr J Clifford	Limbrick Wood Primary	31 August 2019
Mr M Newton	Longford Park Primary	21 September 2019
Mrs P Hetheron	Pearl Hyde Primary	21 September 2019
Mrs J Bicknell	Tiverton School	21 September 2019

5. **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

6. **Any Other Items of Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 3.10p.m.)