

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Education and Skills held at 2.30
pm on Wednesday, 27 September 2017

Present:

Members: Councillor K Maton (Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate):

People A Coles

Place L Knight

Apologies: There were no apologies

Public Business

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

2. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. **Response to Petition Opposing the Closure of The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School Farm**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Education, Libraries and Adult Learning, which responded to a petition opposing the closure of the Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School farm.

A petition bearing 55 signatures had been submitted by Councillor Abbott, a Wyken Ward Councillor, who was invited to attend the meeting along with the petition organiser but were unable to attend. Whilst the Council only accepted signatures on e-petitions hosted on its own website, the Cabinet Member noted that, in addition, there were also 1,336 signatures on an online petition hosted on a different website. The petitioners were concerned about the closure of the farm at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School and were seeking the support of the Council in requesting that the Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School and the School's Board of Governors rethink their position regarding the closure of the farm.

The report indicated that the decision had already been taken by the Romero Multi-Academy Company (MAC) and the Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School and that the local authority had no jurisdiction regarding this decision.

However, the Council was interested in a broad curriculum and it was proposed that Council officers explore options with providers in Coventry and Warwickshire for how Coventry children with an interest in vocational land-based / agriculture / horticulture learning could pursue this and that these also be discussed with the Cardinal Wiseman Catholic school. It was proposed that the outcome of these discussions be submitted to the Cabinet Member, to include investigating whether there were examples from other urban areas about addressing this issue.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:-

- 1) **Notes that the decision has already been taken by the Romero Multi-Academy Company (MAC) and the Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School and that the local authority does not have any jurisdiction regarding this decision.**
- 2) **Requests that Council officers explore with providers in Coventry and Warwickshire, options for how Coventry children with an interest in vocational land-based / agricultural / horticulture learning could pursue this. Council officers to discuss these options with the Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School and inform the Cabinet Member on the outcome of this work, including investigating whether there were examples from other urban areas about addressing this issue.**

4. **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

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

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 2.40 pm)