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### **Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

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#### **Time and Date**

2.30 pm on Wednesday, 27th September, 2017

#### **Place**

Diamond Room 1 - Council House

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#### **Public Business**

1. **Apologies**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)

- a) To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017
- b) Matters arising

4. **Response to Petition Opposing the Closure of The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School Farm** (Pages 7 - 12)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People)

To consider the above petition bearing 55 signatures which has been submitted by Councillor Abbott, a Wyken Ward Councillor, who has been invited to the meeting for the consideration of this item along with the petition organiser.

5. **Outstanding Issues**

There are no outstanding issues

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

Any other items of public business which the Cabinet Member decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

#### **Private Business**

**Nil**

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Martin Yardley, Executive Director, Place, Council House, Coventry

Tuesday, 19 September 2017

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Michelle Salmon, Governance Services Tel: 024 7683 3065 E-mail: michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillor K Maton (Cabinet Member)

By invitation: Councillor P Male (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Please note: a hearing loop is available in the committee rooms

If you require a British Sign Language interpreter for this meeting OR if you would like this information in another format or language please contact us.

**Michelle Salmon**

**Governance Services Tel: 024 7683 3065 E-mail:**

**michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk**

**Coventry City Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Education and Skills held at**  
**2.30 pm on Wednesday, 12 April 2017**

Present:

Members:                                   Councillor K Maton (Cabinet Member)  
  Councillor P Male (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate):

People                                    J Applegarth, K Nelson

Place                                     M Salmon

Apologies:                              There were no apologies

## **Public Business**

### **16.     Declarations of Interest**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests made.

### **17.     Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

### **18.     Determination of School Terms and Holidays - 2018/2019 and 2019/2020**

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People) that informed the Cabinet Member of the outcome of consultation and sought approval of the School Terms and Holidays Calendars for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.

Currently the Local Authority was required to set term and holiday dates for community schools, community special schools, voluntary controlled schools, pupil referral units and maintained nursery schools.

Governing bodies were required to set term and holiday dates in foundation and voluntary aided schools. Academies and free schools were responsible for setting their own terms and holiday dates. All schools in England were free to decide when their school day should start and end.

In addition to taking into account the comments from consultations of previous years, the following Coventry Local Authority principles and protocols were taken into account when setting the proposals for consideration:

- a school year is 195 days, with 190 pupil days and 5 teacher (INSET) days;
- 1 teacher day is determined by the Local Authority and 4 days by individual schools;
- statutory holidays are observed;
- schools prefer, especially secondary schools, full weeks of teaching wherever possible;
- schools prefer a full week break at half term and two full weeks at Easter and Christmas;
- half term holidays are set at the same time as those of neighbouring Authorities if possible.

Two options were developed for each academic year and these were presented to the Secondary Headteachers Executive on 4th January 2017 and the Primary Headteachers Executive on 5th January 2017. The options were discussed and the school terms and holiday calendars for 2018/2019 and 2019/20, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, were agreed as the preferred options for wider consultation with all schools and trade unions.

Consultation with the Trade Union Partnership, the Secondary Heads Partnership, the Primary Heads Partnership and the Special Heads Forum took place at a series of meetings held between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at which they broadly agreed with the proposals.

When the Cabinet Member decision became effective, schools would be informed of the approved calendars and they would be published on the City Council website. Catholic and Church of England Diocesan Authorities, governors of voluntary aided schools, governors of trust schools, free schools and academy trusts would also be informed and invited to recommend the same calendar for their schools.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills,:**

- (1) Following consideration of the outcome of the consultation on School Terms and Holidays, agrees the School Terms and Holidays calendar for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020;**
- (2) Adopts the School Terms and Holidays calendar for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 for Community, Voluntary Controlled and Community Special Schools and Maintained Nursery Schools, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.**
- (3) Invites the Catholic and Church of England Diocesan Authorities and the Governors of Trust Schools and Academies to recommend the same calendar for their schools.**

## 19. Outstanding Issues

There were no outstanding issues.

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

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 2.50 pm)

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Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

27 September 2017

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – Councillor K Maton

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Education, Libraries & Adult Learning

**Ward(s) affected:**

Henley

**Title:**

**Response to petition opposing the closure of The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School Farm**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

A petition containing 55 signatures was submitted to the City Council on 24th July 2017 and is supported by Cllr Faye Abbott. The petition outlines residents' concerns in relation to the closure of The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School farm. In addition, there were also 1,336 signatures from an online petition hosted on a different website. Coventry City Council does not accept signatures hosted on a site other than the Council's website, although the number of signatures in this case is significant.

The petitioners request that the Council, The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School and The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School Board of Governors rethink their position regarding the closure of the school farm.

This report provides a response to the petitions and details action being taken to address the issues highlighted.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is recommended to:-

- 1) Note 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) Ask Council officers to explore with providers in Coventry and Warwickshire options for how Coventry children with an interest in vocational land-based/agriculture/horticulture learning could pursue this. Council officers will also discuss these with The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School. Officers will report back to the Cabinet member on the outcome of this work. This could also include investigating whether there are examples from other urban areas about addressing this issue.

**List of Appendices included:**

None

**Background papers:**

None

**Other useful documents**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No



**Report title: Response to petition opposing the closure of The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School Farm**

**1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School has run a school farm on the school site for nearly 20 years. The school farm enables the school to offer agricultural courses and after school clubs.
- 1.2 The Romero Multi-Academy Company (MAC) and The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School have taken the decision to close the farm.
- 1.3 This decision to close the farm has been taken because demand for agricultural subjects at the school has fallen and so it is no longer possible for the school to include this in their curriculum offer. The school wants to be able to cater for an increasing demand for maths and science subjects and to raise standards. There is also a £70,000 deficit to the school from running the farm.
- 1.4 In the short term agricultural courses will continue for students who are due to take exams in the 2017/2018 academic year. Currently there are 17 pupils out of 1,200 plus pupils who utilise the school farm for curriculum-based learning.
- 1.5 The school will be working with a number of organisations including animal sanctuaries, other school farms, as well as the local community to re-home the animals. Farm staff were offered alternative roles in the school.
- 1.6 The petitioners request that the Council, The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School and The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School board of Governors rethink their position regarding the closure of the school farm.
- 1.7 The hand-written petition states the following: "We the undersigned call on Coventry City Council, Cardinal Wiseman School and the Cardinal Wiseman School Board of Governors to rethink their position and to save the Cardinal Wiseman School Farm. The farm is an excellent chance for local children to interact with farm animals who would normally not have that chance. Children have been inspired to go into animal husbandry and formal education." This petition has been signed by 55 people.
- 1.8 The on-line petition states the following: "To: Cardinal Wiseman School Board and Kevin Maton. Some kids never see farm animals. It's good educationally and give them life skills too. Animals are therapeutic and teach kids how to care and nurture a dependent creature. Why would anyone think it needs to go? Prince Charles himself gave very good reviews of this farm. Stand together and fight. Save the Farm." The on-line petition states that it has been signed by 1,336 people.

**2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The Council is interested in a broad curriculum and the proposal is that Council officers explore with providers in Coventry and Warwickshire options for how Coventry children with

an interest in vocational land-based/agriculture/horticulture learning could pursue this. Council officers will also discuss these with The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School.

- 2.3** Officers will report back to the Cabinet member on the outcome of this work. This could also include investigating whether there are examples from other urban areas about addressing this issue.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1** The decision has already been taken by the Romero Multi-Academy Company (MAC) and The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School Governors and so it was not the role of Coventry City Council to consult on this decision.

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1** The decision to close the farm has already been taken. Work regarding vocational land-based/agriculture/horticulture learning will take place in the Autumn term (2017/18).

### **5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services**

#### **5.1 Financial implications**

There are no financial implications for the Council as a result of this report.

#### **5.2 Legal implications**

There are no legal implications for the Council as a result of this report.

### **6. Other implications**

#### **6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan ([www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/))?**

Not applicable for this report.

#### **6.2 How is risk being managed?**

Not applicable for this report.

#### **6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

Not applicable for this report.

#### **6.4 Equalities / EIA**

Not applicable for this report.

#### **6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

Not applicable for this report.

## 6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

Not applicable for this report.

### Report author(s):

#### Name and job title:

Kirston Nelson, Director – Education, Libraries and Adult Learning  
Adrian Coles, Education Programme Manager

#### Directorate:

People

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
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Lucy Lambert	Education Support and Improvement Service Co-ordinator	People	13.09.17	13.09.17
Lara Knight	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Place	14.09.17	14.09.17
<b>Names of approvers for submission:</b> (officers and members)				
Sarah Kinsell	Accountant	Place	14.09.17	14.09.17
Julie Newman	Senior Solicitor	Place	14.09.17	14.09.17
Elaine Atkins	Legal Services	Place	14.09.17	14.09.17
Councillor K Maton	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills		14.09.17	14.09.17

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