

SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2003-2008

Report By: Head of Policy and Resources

Wards Affected

Countywide.

Purpose

1. To inform the committee of the results of the consultation on the draft School Organisation Plan, to allow the Committee to consider approving the plan for the 2003-2008 period.

Financial Implications

2. None in terms of the plan itself. The consequences in the implementation of the plan will be managed through the Education Capital and Revenue Budgets during the plan period.

Report

3. A draft School Organisation Plan was presented to the last meeting for approval for consultation. The consultation period ended on 10th October. The list of consultees is given as Appendix 1.
4. Four written comments have been received, including one identifying two minor typographical mistakes.
5. St. Francis Xaviers Primary School and Archdiocese of Cardiff have suggested minor rewording. The former wished to make it clear that the statement in paragraph 1.2 that 'admission arrangements in the 19 aided schools are such that the applications from the catchment area are given priority over applications on denominational reasons' did not apply to St. Francis Xaviers Primary School. This is accepted and the 19 schools are now described as Church of England aided primary schools.
6. The Archdiocese of Cardiff wished to make it clear that St Mary's R.C. High School, Lugwardine serves the whole county, and not just the South, and this is now made clear in paragraph 1.5.
7. The final significant comment has been received from the Forward Planning Section of the Environment Directorate. These very helpful comments provide an accurate statement of the up to date position on housing allocations and it is proposed to adopt all the amendments suggested. These amendments are listed in Appendix 2.
8. The Committee may wish to consider the suggested policy on contributions to educational infrastructure from housing developments. In the draft School Organisation Plan, a blanket policy seeking £1000 per dwelling was put forward. In part this attempted to provide developers with some certainty on what was expected of them. The proposed policy suggests that contributions will be required 'where they are required and reasonably related'. This does have the strength in that this is the

For further information on the subject of this report is available from
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approach in planning guidance notes and in the legal framework of development control. It also is an improvement on the current position in which there is no clear statement on the need for developers to contribute to education infrastructure. However, it will entail detailed discussion and negotiation on each development on 'what is required and reasonably related'. In a period of falling rolls, the ability to negotiate significant contributions maybe weakened.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the School Organisation Committee:

- (i) considers the comments received and approves the Plan amended in light of those comments**
- (ii) considers if further comment should be made on the UDP in light of the proposed policy on contributions to education infrastructure from housing developers.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS