

HOPE UNDER DINMORE, ST MARY'S OF HOPE C E PRIMARY SCHOOL – POSITION STATEMENT

Report By: Head of Policy and Resources

Wards Affected

Hampton Court.

Purpose

1. To inform the Committee of the issue of the public notice proposing the closure of St Mary's of Hope C E Primary School.

Financial Implications

2. There would be no change in the current financial year, though the change would enable further allocations to be made to schools in subsequent years because of the disproportionately high costs of very small schools.

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3. At the Autumn Term count for 2004/2005 academic year, there were 15 pupils on roll at St. Mary's. The current number on roll is 11.
4. The Governors of the school wrote to the Director of Education to say that they had considered the situation with care, and had reluctantly concluded that in the interests of the children the school should close and alternative provision sought. The Governors requested the Council to take the formal steps for closure.
5. The Cabinet Member (Education) authorised the issue of the required statutory notice on 28th October. A copy of the notice that was issued is attached. The consultation period runs for two months after the publication of the public notice.
6. There have been further meetings at the school with Governors and parents. The Diocesan Director of Education also attended. The discussion with governors and parents centred on the alternative provision and the associated transport. There is a further meeting with Governors and parents on Friday 18th November. A oral report will be made to the Committee at the meeting to advise them of the position.
7. If there are no objections, the Council would take steps to close the school at the end of the autumn term. If there are objections the matter would be referred to the School Organisation Committee at a special meeting on a date in January yet to be arranged.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be noted.

Background Papers

- None identified

For further information on the subject of this report is available from
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