

Wiltshire Council

Annual Council

22 May 2018

Briefing Note

Outdoor Education Petition

1. The Cabinet made a decision on 27th March 2018 to close both Outdoor Education Centres.
2. In making their decision, the Cabinet considered the report of the scrutiny task group.
3. The request to call-in the decision was considered by the Overview & Management Committee at their meeting on 10 April 2018.

<https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1122&MId=12080>

The meeting resolved;

On balance of the written and oral evidence presented, to find that there were insufficient grounds to demonstrate that the principles of decision making had not been followed by the Cabinet in this case, and therefore the decision can be implemented with immediate effect. (Minute 36 refers)

Current position - Expressions of Interest in operating the sites

4. At the request of Devizes Town Council Councillors Mayes and Whitehead attended a special meeting regarding the site closures.
5. 6 expressions of interest (EOI) have so far been received from organisations exploring options for operating one or both outdoor education sites.
6. The timetable for consideration of EOI has been extended to the **21st May 2018**. Please note: This is not a requirement for a full business case at this stage.
7. This process enables Cabinet an opportunity to consider the outline propositions and decide at its meeting on the **12th June 2018** whether any of the expressions of interest are initially viable and worth exploring further.
8. During this period, the staff consultation will continue and conclude as planned on the **31st August 2018** when the sites are due to close.