

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

26 February 2019

Briefing Note

Special Schools Petitions

1. The Council launched a consultation on special school provision in May 2018 to inform its response to the need for an additional 220 school places by 2026 for children and young people with special needs and/or disabilities.
2. In response to the consultation a significant number of comments were received, including these two petitions which were brought to the attention of the Cabinet.
3. The Cabinet made a decision on 27 November 2018. [Link to papers.](#)
4. Petitioners and other members of the public were invited to speak and ask questions at this meeting, details of which are also included in the Cabinet papers above.
5. Two petitions in respect of St Nicholas School and Larkrise School are presented to this meeting; both petitions are of sufficient size to trigger a debate at Full Council.
6. The petition organisers have five minutes each to present their petitions, which will then both be debated by the Council for up to 15 minutes each. The views of the relevant Cabinet member will be invited.
7. As the decision on special school provision relates to a responsibility of the Cabinet, Full Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform the final Cabinet decision.

Current position

8. The Council is currently undertaking statutory consultation on the proposal to invest £20m in a new centre of excellence at Rowdeford, which would mean the closure of the old schools Larkrise, St Nicholas and Rowdeford in 2023. The consultation portal and further details are available [here](#).
9. The consultation closes on 1 March, after consideration of the responses, the Cabinet will make a final decision at the meeting on 26 March 2019.

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