

**Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 8 November 2007**

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**MEMBER REQUEST FROM MR SNOW**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To notify members of a request submitted by Mr Snow, Church of England Diocesan Representative on this committee, asking members to scrutinise:

“The processes by which the local authority, in collaboration with the diocese when relevant, support and nurture flexible and innovative structures to meet the needs of small schools experiencing periods of difficulty.”

2. To notify members of the actions taken by the committee's Chairman and Vice Chairman in responding to this Member Request so far.

**Action Required of the Committee**

3. The committee is asked to note that this question has been submitted and the actions so far carried out by the Chairman and Vice Chairman in response.

**Member Request**

4. Members will see that this request is connected with the Council's Small Schools Strategy and that it has been prompted by concerns about the way in which Corsley Primary School was supported through difficulties which have ultimately led to its closure. The request included very specific detail in relation to the events which led to the closure of Corsley School.

**Committee Procedure in Considering Member Requests**

5. The council's overview and scrutiny procedural rules provide for any member of the committee (or any 5 members of the council ) to make a request for a relevant topic to be scrutinised.
6. The procedure the committee follows when receiving a Member Request is to seek an initial response from the relevant service department.
7. The department was requested to provide an initial response in order to help members decide whether or not the matter should be added to the committee's work programme and reviewed either by reports to the committee or via the establishing of an ad hoc task group.
8. However the response that has been provided is very specific to Corsley School.

## **Actions Taken by the Chairman & Vice Chairman**

9. Due to the specific nature, both of the background papers provided with this Member Request and of the initial response provided by the department, the Chairman and Vice Chairman have asked that Mr Snow and the Director of Children & Education meet in the first instance, with a view to discussing the concerns regarding Corsley School.
10. The Chairman and Vice Chairman both feel that before the broader question can be put to the committee for consideration, which relates to the Council's Small School Strategy, the more specific issues about Corsley School need to be discussed outside of the committee between Mr Snow and the department.

## **Conclusion**

11. Members are therefore asked to note that this question has been submitted, and that action has been taken by the Chairman and Vice Chairman to ensure that Mr Snow is provided with the opportunity to discuss the specific issues regarding Corsley School with the department.
12. In due course, the Chairman and Vice Chairman, in consultation with Mr Snow, will consider whether or not the broader issue raised in this request, regarding the Council's Small School Strategy, should be brought to the committee for consideration.

**Stephen Gerrard**  
**Assistant Director – Corporate Services**

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