

Speech to Cabinet 19/11/19

I believe it is a positive movement regarding having a three site option as this presents parents with choices, where more pupils are educated and living within their communities.

However, if both Larkrise and St Nicholas do not receive some capital investment I fear this could, by default, become a one site option. Both these sites need investment to ensure they can continue to offer children a quality education. The option of one, or both sites, becoming primary provision would only succeed if investment was provided.

A large part of the accommodation is geared towards accommodating older children. Toilets, changing facilities, etc. would need to be replaced or refurbished. Will the new governing body have the freedom to use funds as they see appropriate in order to ensure great facilities and education across the three sites?

Shorter term, will funds be available to ensure provision is in place for September 2020.

As cabinet is well aware, there is considerable pressure on places for next September. The three schools, with the Local authority, are exploring options to ensure that all children who need a place will have an appropriate place. This will possibly involve:

- Movement of children from one site to another (only if in the best interests of the children and with the support of parents)
- Possibly new provision on one of the sites (most likely Rowde)

Whatever the solution to ensure quality provision for all, time needs to be spent planning, resourcing, recruiting and ensuring the right skills are in the right place.

The new governing body (January 2020) and executive head (April 2020) will need resources to ensure this happens.

The three schools, as indeed all schools, do not have the financial or staffing flexibility to tackle such a project without the appropriate financial support.

Will funds be made available to ensure the capacity is in place **now** to enable sufficiency and appropriate provision for pupils in September 2020?

On Mon, Nov 18, 2019 at 4:40 PM Phil Cook <head@larkrise.wilts.sch.uk> wrote:

Speech to cabinet

Fundamentally still concerned

Positive movement regarding three sites however more children and young people will be educated outside their communities

However

Unless investment is made in each site Chippenham and Trowbridge facilities would remain second rate.

Short term

- New Preliminary Governing body January
- New head in April
- Progress needs to be made regarding pupil placement for September 2020
- The three special schools do not have additional capacity either staff wise or financially to work towards a proper solution
- The GB/ New head will need a budget to resolve the short term placement issue, this could be freeing up existing staff, appointing prior to September.
- In order to resolve the pressing placement issue for September 2020 funds will need to be made available.