

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

14 December 2021

Agenda Item 5 – Public Participation and Questions from Councillors

Further Statement/Questions & Responses from Colin Gale (Chairman of Rushall Parish Council) – Upavon Primary School

To Councillor Phil Alford Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Housing, Strategic Assets and Asset Transfer

Statement

As identified in the minutes of the last Cabinet meeting and stated in the Cabinet Members response Cabinet has now approved the disposal of Upavon Primary School. However, the Cabinet Member has still not addressed 3 points raised in my initial statement:

Question 1 (21-361)

As part of the process can the Cabinet Member confirm that there is enough capacity to satisfy the requirements for local children in Upavon including the new housing estate consisting of 45 houses at Whistledown plus the children from Trenchard Lines and any further requirements as a result of Army Rebasing?

Response

Upavon falls with the catchment areas of both Rushall Primary School and Netheravon Primary School, although parents are free to express a preference for any school. The capacity at Rushall is 147 (21 places per year group) and currently has 69 pupils on roll. Netheravon Primary School has capacity for 210 (30 places per year group) and currently has 148 pupils on roll. Therefore our pupil forecasts indicate there are sufficient places across both schools to accommodate all children resident in the catchment areas, the pupil product of the new housing at Whistledown, children from Trenchard Lines and the Army Rebasing Programme.

Question 2 (21-362)

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that the Temporary classroom located at Rushall Primary School is no longer required?

Response

Rushall Primary School is an Academy and therefore the Council has no responsibility for the school's accommodation nor knowledge around how the accommodation is currently used. There are over 60 mobile classrooms across Wiltshire for which planning consent is required to be renewed every five years.

Question 3 (21-363)

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that proceeds from the disposal of Upavon Primary School will be used to provide the infrastructure to enable children from Upavon to get to Rushall in a non-carbon producing manner?

Response

Should disposal of the site be considered the best option for the Council and a capital receipt generated, any receipt would be used to support the whole capital programme rather than a specific project.