

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	14 July 2011	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2289
TITLE:	To assess options for the future of Culverhay School	
WARD:	All but specifically Southdown, Odd Down, Twerton	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 – The Future of Culverhay School Appendix 2 - Options for the Future of Culverhay School		

1. THE ISSUE

1.1. In February 2011 a single member decision to determine a statutory notice to close Culverhay School was 'called in' under the Council's provisions for scrutiny of decisions. In March 2011 the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered the reasons for the submission of the call - in and decided to refer the request to full Council. Cabinet now need to consider the outcome of the Council hearing of the call - in.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees to:

2.1. Consider the outcome of the Council call - in to be heard on 14th July 2011.

2.2. Determine what further action is required.

A If Cabinet wishes to close Culverhay School

- i) Instruct Officers to implement the action plan for the phased closure of Culverhay School.

B If the Cabinet wishes Culverhay to stay open.

Instruct officers to:

- i) Publish a notice of revocation to withdraw the decision to close Culverhay School.
- ii) Determine which of the options for a co-educational school set out in Appendix 2 it wishes to support.
- iii) Instruct officers to work with the Governing Body of Culverhay School to deliver the preferred option at the earliest opportunity.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. Appendix 1 to this report provides detailed analysis of the revenue and capital implications associated with the options of closing Culverhay or keeping it open.
- 3.2. If Culverhay school is to stay open a staffing restructure is essential in order to provide a balanced budget in the short to medium term. Current staffing and school running costs exceed projected income which is primarily from pupil numbers. Up to £400,000 is required to cover the redundancy costs associated with the restructure. Therefore up to £400,000 will be required from revenue budget contingency in accordance with the approved delegation process.
- 3.3. In order for Culverhay school to be viable and to meet demand for more co-educational places essential capital works and improvements will be required. These are estimated to be £300,000. This will be provided by a one off revenue contribution to capital of £300,000 funded from the revenue budget contingency in accordance with the approved delegation process.
- 3.4. The specific arrangements for the governance and release of corporate headroom (which includes any amounts for which the purpose has not been specified in the budget report in relation to transfers to revenue budget contingency, the ongoing headroom allocations and the one off headroom allocations) are delegated to the Council's Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Chief Executive together with the Chair of the CPR Overview & Scrutiny Panel.
- 3.5. The balance of the Revenue Budget Contingency Funding is currently £1.2m before allocations to Culverhay.
- 3.6. Other financial implications will be covered by the Direct Schools Grant (DSG).

4. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- *Improving life chances of disadvantaged teenagers and young people*
- *Improving school buildings*
- *Addressing the causes and effects of climate change*

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1. The background to the review of Bath secondary schools and previous decisions made including the proposal to close Culverhay are set out in Appendix 1, together with information on the issues and risks associated with both the possible closure of Culverhay or its retention as part of secondary school provision in Bath. Members will need to consider this information together with the analysis of the possible options for the future of Culverhay set out Appendix 2 when considering the outcome of the full Council call – in.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1. The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

6.2. Appendix 1 to this report assesses the risks associated with closing Culverhay and keeping it open. Members will need to consider these when considering the options before them and how any adverse risks might be mitigated.

7. EQUALITIES

7.1. An equalities impact assessment of the issues associated with both closing or retaining Culverhay has been carried out and reviewed by the Divisional Director. These are attached as Appendices 4 and 5. Members will need to consider the equalities impact of the options before them and how any adverse impacts might be mitigated.

8. RATIONALE

8.1. Cabinet is required to consider the outcome of the Overview and Scrutiny call - in and decide what further action may be required regarding Culverhay School. The recommendations in Section 2 set out the options available to Members.

9. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1. Depending on the outcome of the Overview and Scrutiny call – in, Appendix 2 to this report provides an analysis of options for the future of Culverhay School.

10. CONSULTATION

10.1. Cabinet members; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer.

10.2. There has been extensive consultation including a wide ranging public consultation exercise on the proposal to close Culverhay.

11. ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1. Social Inclusion; Sustainability; Human Resources; Property; Young People; Corporate; Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations

11.2. The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Chris Kavanagh 01225 395149
Sponsoring Cabinet Member	Councillor Nathan Hartley
Background papers	Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel 21 st March 2011 call – in of Cabinet decision E2233 'Determination of the Statutory Notice to close Culverhay School'
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