

Statement by Cllr Sally Davis to Cabinet on May 20th regarding the reasons for the CALL IN being sent back to Cabinet.

I am here today as Chair of the Early Years, Children & Youth Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel [EYCY PDS Panel] as the decision, by the majority of the Panel, following the Call In heard by the Panel on May 9th was to ask Cabinet to reconsider their decision made on April 10th regarding denominational subsidy.

The Cabinet decision was made following the Home to School Transport Review & recommendations from the EYCY PD&S Panel following their meeting on March 25th.

It was felt the reasons for the Call in were valid on the following grounds:

- Did all the Cabinet have access to all the information including all minutes from our March meeting as they were not available on the web-site?
Verbally the Panel were told yes but some Panel members were not convinced there was sufficient evidence, especially in the public domain, to back up this statement.
- Did the Cabinet fully explore option 3c from the Panel's recommendations or was a presumption made that parents would not want to contribute more even though on p48 of the Report it was noted that families at the contributor session were willing to pay?
- Was the costing for all options researched thoroughly particularly the cost neutral option before Cabinet made their decision?
Cllr Romero said the once costs started to come through of around £1,000 it was not felt appropriate to continue looking at option C, these figures were shared verbally with the Panel. Cllr Romero stressed that Cabinet had the same information as the Panel throughout its decision making but some Panel members were not convinced of both this & whether all options such as increasing charges had been worked through in the same detailed manner.

The majority of the Panel would have liked to have seen clear written evidence linked to these statements available when the Cabinet decision was made. There was particular concern that the cost neutral figures, which had been requested at the January Panel meeting, be part of the facts shared with Cabinet before they made a decision. These figures were not presented to the Panel at their March meeting as an update so members felt this part of the evidence had not been shared with them, if it had been it would have allowed them to comment as appropriate.

- Impact on equalities section did not make it clear whether the real effect on families from minority groups who sent children to St Gregory's in particular, because of their beliefs, had been fully considered, the school has particular measures in place

to help these students & producing materials in other languages was not the only aspect that needed considering.

I hope the Cabinet will look carefully at these reasons & in reconsidering their decision address the concerns raised by the Panel to show that all the options available to them have been considered in detail.

Sally Davis **20.05.13**