

Notice requesting a call in of Cabinet Decision E3037

“Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2017 - 2021”

The undersigned Councillors wish to call in decision E3037 “Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2017 - 2021”, taken by the Cabinet on 11 April 2018, as it does not give sufficient consideration to the following factors:

1. The Greater Bath Consortium Planning Area is too large to be practical as a means of planning the distribution of school places. Whilst a sufficient number of places are currently available across the whole city, this mechanism does not meet families’ needs as it does not take geographical context into account. This creates a different system for Bath children compared to those from North East Somerset (where geographical divisions form part of the plan), which may be discriminatory.
2. Families from the South West of Bath are being disproportionately penalised by being allocated places at schools which are the furthest from home. This puts the biggest burden of travel on families from the part of the city which has on average the lowest family incomes. This may be an equalities issue which has not been fully considered.
3. The planning system fails to consider the air quality implications of home to school travel as well as issues of congestion, time taken, and cost to families.
4. Pupils with special educational needs or extra needs may be disadvantaged by the challenge of independent travel.
5. Pupils travelling long distances to school may be disadvantaged in their social development by not living close to classmates.
6. The planning system does not make an allowance for the number of children from outside of Bath and North East Somerset attending Bath schools, nor does it allow for the reciprocal arrangements adopted by Hayesfield and Beechen Cliff schools for siblings.
7. It fails to look to the longer-term with regards to provision requirements at secondary level and the potential need for new schools.

Signatories:

1. Councillor Paul Crossley – lead (by email)
2. Councillor Dine Romero (by email)
3. Councillor Rob Appleyard (by email)
4. Councillor Steve Hedges (by email)
5. Councillor Michelle O’Doherty (by email)
6. Councillor Richard Samuel (by email)
7. Councillor Tim Ball (by email)
8. Councillor Will Sandry (by email)
9. Councillor Nigel Roberts (by email)
10. Councillor Shaun Stephenson-McGall (by email)