

## **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services, and Rural Affairs**

held on Monday, 6th January, 2014 in Committee Suite 1 & 2, Westfields,  
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor Rachel Bailey.

#### **Councillor in attendance:**

Councillor Rhoda Bailey.

#### **Officers in attendance:**

Barbara Dale – School Admissions and Organisation Manager

Cherry Foreman – Democratic Services Officer

#### **20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **22 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

#### **23 MANOR PARK SCHOOL AND NURSERY, KNUTSFORD - PROPOSED EXPANSION**

As the Strategic Commissioner of School Places, the Local Authority has a statutory duty to review provision within its area and to establish future demand.

Pupil forecasts indicate a shortfall in the number of primary school places due to changing populations and increasing demand in some areas of the Borough. Proposals are being made for the Knutsford area of the Borough to expand existing accommodation to meet this increasing demand and to ensure a level of operational surplus which is a level of spare capacity intended to accommodate reasonable journey times to school, some degree of parental choice, and flexibility to allow for mid-year entrants.

In making this recommendation, officers have considered a number of issues including the number of pupils in each school's catchment area, the number of first preferences received for each school, the current size of the school together with the school sites and those suitable for expansion and the likely costs of extension. Suitable schools need to be central to the areas where the extra places are required.

As the increase in places amounted to more than 25% it was noted that this would be a significant enlargement and statutory consultation procedures would, therefore, be required; informal consultations had taken place with the headteachers of the primary schools in this area.

The advice of the Council's Legal and Finance Officers has been taken into account in producing the report presented to the Portfolio Holder.

### **RESOLVED**

That approval be given to commence statutory consultation on the proposed expansion of Manor Park School and Nursery from 210 to 315 pupil places for implementation from September 2015.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.10 pm