

## **Cabinet – 21 March 2007**

### **Consultation on School Organisation matters**

**Service:** Children's and Young People

**Wards:** All

#### **Summary of report**

At its panel on 15 November 2006, the Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel considered an item on 'the consultation process when closing schools' this item was taken to the panel by Councillor Jon Phillips. Parents of children from Beechdale Primary School were present at the meeting, and expressed concern about the consultation process that led to the eventual closure of Beechdale Primary School.

The panel requested that a catalogue of events/chronology of meetings could be made available to Councillor Phillips. At its meeting on 26 January 2007, the panel received the paper 'consultation on school organisation matters'. Once again parents of children from Beechdale Primary School attended the panel and participated in discussions.

This report outlines the Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel's recommendations relating to school closures.

#### **Recommendations**

That, the issues relating to any Cabinet report on school closures are discussed with parents via the education services and that a report detailing how each school closure has been handled is provided to the Children's and Young People Scrutiny Panel.

#### **Resource and legal implications**

There are resource and legal requirements which must be followed when closing a school.

#### **Performance and risk management issues**

If the scrutiny panel are provided with details of how school closures are handled it may allow any inaccuracies or faults to be identified and rectified upon recommendation by the panel. This should improve performance and reduce risk to the authority.

#### **Consultation and citizen impact**

The scrutiny panel are committed to ensuring that citizens are consulted with when consideration is given to closing schools. It is anticipated that by receiving reports consultation is improved.

## **Vision 2008**

Consultation on school organisation matters impacts and contributes to the following vision priorities:

- [Make our schools great](#)
- [Encourage everyone to feel proud of Walsall](#)
- [Listen to what local people want](#)

## **Background papers:**

Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel minutes 15 November 2006

Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel minutes 26 January 2007

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## **Signed:**



Councillor Arif

Chair of Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Date: 28 February 2007