

## **COUNCIL 7 NOVEMBER 2019 - AGENDA ITEM 9 – QUESTION TIME**

**Questions and written responses provided below.**

**QUESTION 1** – Mr A D Kent will ask Marcus Hart:

*"Could the Cabinet Member with Responsibility advise what the impact on Worcestershire would be if all the pupils educated in Independent Schools in the County were suddenly put into the state education system?"*

### **Draft Answer**

According to the Department for Education's Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics data return there are 22 independent schools and one non-maintained special school in Worcestershire. Information from the Independent School Council website lists 18 independent schools with a total pupil number of 7,176 aged between 0-19.

To calculate the cost of independent pupils transferring to the state sector without knowing their year groups require the manipulation of national spend in England of just under £42 billion (2018-19) representing a cost per pupil of £4,700 at primary school and £6,200 at secondary school an estimated average of £5,450. This figure excludes spend by local authorities on central services, as well as spending by special schools.

To accommodate and educate 7,176 pupils funded at the estimated average English per pupil unit cost of £5,450 would require an additional £39.1m of revenue funding. To accommodate an additional 7,176 pupils would require additional school places at an average cost of £15,083 per school place a total of £108.2m.

### **Supplementary question**

The Cabinet Member concurred with the view that this proposal would place an onerous burden on the state and restrict parental choice.

**QUESTION 2** – Mr P M McDonald will ask Lucy Hodgson:

*"Would the Cabinet Member please reaffirm that Rubery Library is no longer under threat of closure."*

### **Draft Answer**

There are no plans to close any of our libraries.

**QUESTION 3** – Mr R C Lunn will ask Marcus Hart:

*"How many children have been taken off school rolls after having an Education Health and Care Plan turned down in Worcestershire in the 2018-19 academic year"*

### **Draft Answer**

No child who was subject to an EHC assessment, and for whom an EHC Plan was not issued, became EHE following the decision.

Of the 26 who were subject to an EHC assessment and for whom an EHC Plan was not issued, 2 were already being electively home educated. Of the two, one remains EHE and the other is not, so a relatively small number.

Supplementary question

The Cabinet Member concurred with the view that it was vitally important for the future of a child that the EHC plan was fully carried out.

**QUESTION 4** – Mrs E B Tucker will ask Ken Pollock:

*“Given the importance and urgency of Brexit preparations, when will the promised Cabinet report as agreed at September’s Council meeting be published?”*

**Draft Answer**

The issue will be discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 14 November.

Supplementary question

In response to a concern about the lack of information regarding the Council’s Brexit plans, the Cabinet Member stated that it was important that the Council had appropriate plans in place for Brexit and that the impact on the county was kept to a minimum.