



Cabinet – 24th November 2017

Comments on the Closure of Residential Facilities at Maplewell Hall Special School

THIS DECISION IS PREMATURE

If Cabinet approve the recommendations on this paper then they would be making a decision to close Maplewell Hall's residential facilities before the petition has been debated and considered at Full Council.

This is the first time that this Council has been presented with a petition large enough to trigger a debate at Full Council.

Getting over 10,000 signatures for a Local Government petition is phenomenal achievement and at the least these residents deserve to have their views properly discussed and considered before the Council moves forward with a decision.

The report sets out an aim to publish the Statutory Notice in early January. This timetable could be kept to, even if this decision was deferred until after the petition had been discussed at Full Council, at the December Cabinet meeting.

There is no requirement for this decision to be made today, so there is no excuse for Cabinet to ignore the petition and press ahead with the decision before it has been fully considered.

I urge you to respect the democratic rights of signatories of this petition and defer the decision until after Full Council.

Geoff Welsh

Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Children and Families

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