

## Appendix 1

Pre-Statutory Consultation on Proposal to close Rowan Centre Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) – following the transfer of pupils to Elements Academy from 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Children and Young People's Services**

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Contact: Elaine Maltby  
28<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Stakeholder consultation

Dear Stakeholder

**Proposal to close Rowan Centre Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) – following the transfer of pupils to Elements Academy.**

Council Cabinet at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 approved a period of pre statutory consultation on proposals to close the Rowan Centre as a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) following the transfer of all pupils to Elements Academy.

Subsequently, the Rowan Centre site has now been vacated and currently stands empty.

The report brought forward proposals to follow due process as prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) to formally close the Rowan Centre PRU and make the site available for other educational use as required by DfE.

To use the site for other registered education provision, it is necessary to follow a statutory process to formally close the Rowan Centre as a Local Authority maintained School and make the site available for other educational purposes as required by DfE.

Should proposals to formally close the Rowan Centre be approved following statutory process, the site can be offered to education providers for the use of education provision where there is an identified need and the proposal be approved by DfE in due course.

To use the site for other purposes than educational use would require the submission of a school land transaction proposal to DfE and would require Secretary of State for Education approval. This could only be pursued if there were no viable alternative education options.

The first stage of the statutory process is to seek the views and opinions of relevant stakeholders. Below is a timetable which outlines the process.

## Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

**November 2022** - Report to Cabinet seeking approval to commence a period of pre-statutory consultation on proposals to close the Rowan Centre PRU. (Approved 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022).

**February 2023** - Report to Cabinet outlining the outcome of pre-statutory consultation and seeking approval to proceed to a period of statutory consultation by public notice (representation period).

**February / March 2023** - Public notice period - during the representation period, submit formal proposals to DfE being consulted on.

**April 2023** - Report to Cabinet outlining the outcome of statutory consultation and seeking determination of the proposals.

**April 2023** - Formally notify the Secretary of State for Education of the determination.

A copy of the report to Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 accompanies this letter.

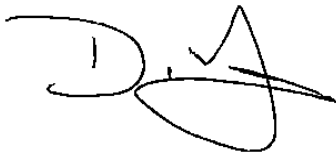
Should you wish to comment on the proposals, please contact:

Elaine Maltby at: [elainemaltby@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:elainemaltby@rotherham.gov.uk)

By Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Redacted responses will be used to inform Council Cabinet of the outcome of pre statutory consultation prior to moving forward to a public notice period.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Fenton', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Dean Fenton  
Head of Service – Access to Education

Redacted Responses to Pre-Statutory Consultation:-

There were no responses or enquiries received during the pre-statutory consultation period.