

## **COUNCIL MEETING – 13 JULY 2023**

### **PETITION DEBATE**

**Motion to debate the petition:**  
**Stop the cuts at Laycock Primary School Deaf Provision**

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Michelline Safi Ngongo,  
Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families

This Council notes that:

- A petition was received at the Council meeting on 3 March 2023 which had over 2,000 signatures.
- Procedure Rule 19.1 of the Council’s Constitution provides that, where a petition has received at least 2,000 signatures, then a debate on the petition shall be held, for up to 15 minutes, at the following ordinary Council meeting. The Lead Petitioner will be invited to re-introduce the petition at the meeting. Councillors will then be invited to consider the petition and debate the points raised.

This Council resolves to:

- Continue to encourage residents to participate in local democracy by carefully considering the points raised in the petition and to undertake the debate in a spirit of openness and transparency.
- Note the petition.

**The text of the petition is set out overleaf.**

**Petition received at the 3 March 2023 meeting of the Council**

**Stop the cuts at Laycock Primary School Deaf Provision**

**We the undersigned petition the council to (i) review proposed changes to staffing in the deaf provision at Laycock Primary School; (ii) Stop any staff changes at the School until a full impact assessment has been conducted to establish the effects of the changes on the short and long term prospects of the deaf children at the School; (iii) Conduct a thorough investigation into the impact of the proposals on the pupils' ECH plans**

Laycock Primary School is one of only a handful of schools in the country which have a provision for deaf children. However Laycock is unique in its approach to integrating deaf children into the mainstream school and the hearing world in general - the students need to be met to be believed - and this is now at risk. The deaf provision is currently run by a highly experienced and award winning teacher, who is a visionary in the area of deaf education. Under her guidance the school takes a reasoned and progressive approach to integrating deaf children into the mainstream school. There are plans to reduce staff numbers, particularly of the more experienced staff, in the deaf provision and to prematurely integrate deaf children into mainstream classes with no concern for their individual needs. The potential impact on the children's educational, mental and emotional well-being does not appear to have been considered at all. We request an assessment of each child's EHC plan to ensure that all children's needs are met - 38 of the 64 deaf children at the school have complex educational needs beyond just being deaf, including ASD.

**2,185 signatures received.**