

## EDUCATION CONSULTATIVE FORUM

30 JANUARY 2007

Chairman:	* Councillor Miss Christine Bednell	
Councillors:	* Mrs Camilla Bath * B E Gate * Manji Kara	* Janet Mote * Raj Ray * Bill Stephenson
Teachers' Constituency:	* Mrs D Cawthorne Mr R Borman Ms C Gembala * Mr Allan Jones	* Ms J Lang * Ms L Money Ms L Snowdon
Governors' Constituency:	† Ms H Henshaw * Mrs C Millard	† Mr N Rands Ms H Solanki
Elected Parent Governor Representatives:	* Mr R Chauhan	* Mrs D Speel
Denominational Representatives:	† Mrs J Rammelt	† Reverend P Reece

\* Denotes Member present  
† Denotes apologies received

**PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS****RECOMMENDATION 1 - School Term Dates 2008-09**

The Forum received a report of the Director of Strategic Services (People First), which proposed school term dates for 2008-09 in line with the model provided by the Local Government Association (LGA).

In response to questions from members of the Forum, the officer advised that most of the neighbouring boroughs were considering following the LGA model. A member of the Forum commented that it could be useful for neighbouring boroughs to align term dates as far as possible.

A Member expressed concern that the school year would end on a Monday, which could result in a higher than average unauthorised absence of pupils. An officer suggested that this day could be used as a training day.

Having discussed various options, the Forum agreed it would be difficult to avoid finishing the school year on a Monday.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (to the Portfolio Holder, People First):

That the proposed school term dates for 2008-09 be approved.

[**REASON:** To fulfil the Council's requirement to determine the school term dates for 2008-09.]

**PART II - MINUTES**28. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance at this meeting.

29. **Apologies for Absence:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that apologies for absence had been received from Ms H Henshaw, Mrs J Rammelt, Mr N Rands and Reverend P Reece.

30. **Declarations of Interest:**

**RESOLVED:** To note (1) the personal interests previously declared by members of the Forum, in relation to their governorships of schools, as set out in the minutes of the Education Consultative Forum held on 15 July 2004 (minute 110);

(2) that the following additional personal interests were declared:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>
Councillor Miss Christine Bednell	Patron of Harrow Young Musicians
Mr H Chauhan	Governor of Hatch End High School
Councillor Mr B E Gate	Patron of Harrow Young Musicians
Mrs D Speel	Governor of Cannon Lane Middle School

31. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

**RESOLVED:** That all items be considered with the press and public present.

32. **Minutes:**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2006 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

33. **Public Questions:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no public questions were put at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 16 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

34. **Petitions:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no petitions had been received.

35. **Deputations:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no deputations were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 15 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

36. **School Term Dates 2008-09:**  
(See Recommendation 1)37. **Draft Budget for Consultation:**

The Forum considered a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy, which set out the draft revenue medium term budget strategy for 2007-08 and 2009-10.

An officer presented the segments of the draft budget that related to education. She explained that the Council's grant increase for 2007/2008 was 2.7% and that given there were inflation and other pressures exceeding this sum as well as reserves being very low significant savings across the Council needed to be made.

During the discussion on the report, members of the Forum expressed the following views.

- Concern was expressed that the cut in education welfare service would affect the most vulnerable individuals.
- Ceasing to be a provider of youth services and commission from other bodies could be detrimental to the personal development of youths.
- To cease Music Teaching Subsidy by increasing charges or reducing expenditure could prevent gifted pupils from a less wealthy background from developing their talent.
- The proposed cut in the Focus Harrow Young Musicians grant on Harrow residents was considerable and would negatively impact on the organisation.

- The fear of crime could increase if no services were provided for youths.
- Concerns were also raised over SLA charges, the focus on the clothing grant, school meals administration and legal support.
- The reduction of extended schools funding would lead to long term difficulties.
- It would be helpful if the draft budget stated for each item what percentage the change represented.
- There was a general concern over how realistic year on year cuts were and whether they were achievable and desirable considering the impact on services they might have.
- The budget as presented should not be considered the base budget. Were the Council's financial position to improve, levels of funding should be restored.

**RESOLVED:** That the above comments be forwarded to Cabinet.

38. **Date of Next Meeting:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that the next meeting of the Forum would be held on 21 March 2007.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.32 pm, closed at 9.15 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE BEDNELL  
Chairman