

## EDUCATION CONSULTATIVE FORUM

30 JUNE 2008

Chairman:	* Councillor Mrs Anjana Patel	
Councillors:	* Mrs Camilla Bath * Miss Christine Bednell * B E Gate	* Janet Mote * Raj Ray * Bill Stephenson
Teachers' Constituency:	* Mrs D Cawthorne * Ms C Gembala Ms J Howkins	Ms J Lang * Ms L Money Ms L Snowdon
Governors' Constituency:	Ms H Solanki * Mrs C Millard	
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 - NIL****PART II - MINUTES**93. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

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

94. **Apologies for Absence:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr R Chauhan and Mrs J Rammelt.

95. **Declarations of Interest:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members in relation to the business transacted at this meeting.

96. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

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

97. **Minutes:**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2008 be deferred until printed in the next Council Bound Minute Volume.

98. **Matters Arising:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that there were no matters arising that did not appear on the agenda.

99. **Public Questions:**

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

100. **Petitions:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no petitions were received at this meeting under the provisions of the Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 14 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

101. **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).

102. **Strategic Approach to School Reorganisation:**

The Forum received the report of the Director of Schools and Children's Development which detailed the progress made in regard to the Strategic Approach to School Reorganisation and how the implementation of the proposals would impact upon education in Harrow. The Director of Schools & Children's Development informed the Forum that the Vision of Education in Harrow had been agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 21 May 2008 and would underpin the development of the project.

The Director of Schools & Children's Development explained that the proposed changes would establish separate first schools (Reception to Year 3) as infant schools (Reception to Year 2), separate middle schools (Year 4 to Year 7) as junior schools (Year 3 to Year 6), combined first and middle schools (Reception to Year 7) as primary schools (Reception to Year 6) and high schools (Year 8 to Year 11) as secondary schools with 6th form provisions (Year 7 to Year 13). The Director of Schools & Children's Development stated that the Strategic Approach to School Reorganisation project was inclusive of the voluntary aided sector.

The Forum was informed that, following the meeting on 19 June, Cabinet had recommended that the progress of the work of the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) be noted and that a consultation on school reorganisation be undertaken. Cabinet had also requested that a further report be produced in February 2009 to outline the comments received during the consultation process and to consider whether to publish statutory notices. As such, consultation had begun in accordance with the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Guidance Stage 1, with local schools producing information packs for stakeholders, the inclusion of an information article in the upcoming edition of 'Harrow People', and the provision of public meetings to promote discussion.

The Director of Schools and Children's Development invited questions and asked the Forum to consider how it could engage with the process as a representative group, and to comment on how stakeholders could be reached effectively.

A Member queried whether the primary capital available to Harrow Council had been confirmed. The Director of Schools and Children's Development explained that the total capital sum allocated to Harrow was predetermined, but that the Council was required to make a formal application in order to acquire it. She commented that the application might need to be adjusted over time to ensure that the full amount was received in April 2009.

A question was raised as to how the Council would deal with capital problems during the implementation of the project and, more specifically, whether the amount of funding available from Building Schools for the Future (BSF) would be considered when deciding whether to proceed with the project. The Director of Schools and Children's Development stated that capital problems were not expected and that current plans to provide additional classrooms and accommodation in order to deal with the changing age of transfer would most likely be viewed positively by BSF. This could impact positively on the funding available from the BSF.

In response to a question as to how much primary capital would be available and how the money would be given to Harrow Council, the Director of Schools & Children's Development explained that £9,000,000 was expected to be available in the first phase, and that this would be allocated as a lump sum from the beginning of the 2009/2010 academic year. Following further questions from members, the Director of Schools & Children's Development clarified that if the project was to overrun, this would not necessarily be viewed negatively by the DCSF, provided that the money had been utilised correctly. A member raised concern that the amount of money might not be sufficient considering the number of schools in Harrow. The member commented that the council should be careful not to proceed unless the available capital was sufficient.

The Chairman asked the Forum to confirm how it could be involved in the process. Members requested that they be provided with termly reports to ensure that they remained fully aware of the progress of the project. A member commented that good communication between stakeholder groups was essential and recommended that the Governors Newsletter, SRG Newsletter and other regular communications be made available to all members of the Forum. The Director of Schools and Children's

Development informed the forum that a series of PowerPoint presentations were being produced to detail the progress of the project and asked whether the Forum would be interested in viewing these. Following a brief discussion, the Chairman confirmed that this would be appreciated and that an opportunity to provide feedback would be welcomed.

A member noted that PowerPoint Presentations were often a useful source of information and should be provided as often as possible. The member also suggested that the Forum utilise new technologies to ensure that such presentations were easily available in an electronic format for those who were unable to attend meetings.

103. **Date of Next Meeting:**

**RESOLVED:** That the date of the next meeting, 11 September 2008, be noted.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.34 pm, closed at 8.01 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR ANJANA PATEL  
Chairman