

Chair:	* Councillor Bill Stephenson	
Councillors:	* Mrs Bath * Miss Bednell * Gate	* Ismail * Janet Mote * Ray
Teachers' Constituency:	* Mr R Borman * Ms C Gembala * 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 H Epie	* Mr R Sutcliffe
Denominational Representatives:	* Mrs J Rammelt	† Reverend P Reece

* Denotes Member present
† Denotes apologies received

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 2 - Education White Paper

An Officer introduced the summary of the Education White Paper. The Forum was advised that the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council had received a letter from the Minister for Education, Ruth Kelly, inviting views on the White Paper.

During the discussion on the White Paper summary, the following comments were made:

- More emphasis should be placed on the view that collaboration between providers would lead to increased effectiveness whilst competition between schools could reduce it;
- Concerns about governing bodies that were small in number;
- Concerns about mandatory training for governors, who were, after all, volunteers;
- Most parents merely wanted a good local school for their child;
- Schools should not be forced to take on Foundation status;
- The issue of planning consents and expansion of schools;
- Increased numbers of school places were required to increase parental choice.

In response to a query regarding whether the White Paper could be forwarded to unions, the Chair advised that an amended version, if approved by Cabinet, could be circulated to Heads and Governors. He added that he would suggest to Cabinet that the summary be forwarded to Harrow's MPs.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (To Cabinet)

That Cabinet be requested to consider the views of the Forum and endorse the summary of the Education White Paper.

[REASON: To ensure that central government received a formal response from the London Borough Harrow].