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| Chairman:                                | * Councillor Miss Christine Bednell                     |  |
| Councillors:                             | * Mrs Camilla Bath<br>* B E Gate<br>* Julia Merison (1) | * Janet Mote<br>* Raj Ray<br>* Bill Stephenson |
| Teachers' Constituency:                  | † Mrs D Cawthorne<br>* Ms C Gembala<br>* Ms J Howkins   | * Ms J Lang<br>* Ms L Money<br>* Ms L Snowdon  |
| Governors' Constituency:                 | † Ms H Henshaw<br>Mr N Rands<br>* Mrs C Millard         | Ms H Solanki                                   |
| Elected Parent Governor Representatives: | Mr R Chauhan  | * Mrs D Speel                                  |
| Denominational Representatives:          | * Mrs J Rammelt   | Reverend P Reece                               |

\* Denotes Member present  
(1) Denotes category of Reserve Member  
† Denotes apologies received

## **PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **RECOMMENDATION 1 - Strategic Approach to School Organisation**

The Forum considered a report of the Director of Schools and Children's Development, which asked members to reconsider the Strategic Approach to the school re-organisation within Harrow.

The Director of Schools and Children's Development informed the Forum that this report was at the initial stage of the re-organisation and that consultation was at an early phase. She explained that high achievement in education was currently being challenged due to a change in demographics within the borough. She added that the 'Building Schools for the Future Programme' (BSF) had been submitted to the Department for Children, Schools and Families and that it had been allocated funding for 2013-2015. There was an opportunity for the Council to re-submit the application to secure funding at an earlier stage. As one of the Council's Corporate Priorities, the Authority has considered the transfer of age of pupils at 11 to High School, as requested by parents within the borough, however, this would not be possible without additional funding.

A Member noted that the BSF Programme included refurbishment of both primary and secondary schools. Another Member confirmed that consultation had taken place in 2003 with all stakeholders, including pupils. Harrow's school system differed from most other councils nationally and it was noted that Harrow aimed to be a 'Beacon of Excellence'.

A Member queried what guarantees were in place to ensure that the redevelopment of Whitmore High School would be completed as scheduled. The Director of Schools and Children's Development responded that as part of the submission a single contractor had been taken on board, which would save time in tendering. In addition, penalty clauses were contained within the contract in case the contractor failed to deliver. A Member suggested including milestones during the construction to ensure the Programme would be completed on time.

It was clarified that the age of transfer was not linked to amalgamation of schools and that the school governors would decide on the amalgamation. However it would result in some smaller schools moving to amalgamation, as they would not be sustainable with smaller numbers.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (To Cabinet)

That the proposed approach to school re-organisation in Harrow be supported and approved.

**Reason for Recommendation:** To fulfil the Council's Corporate Priorities.