
REPORT OF SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2004

Chair:	Councillor Gate (See Minute 45)	
Councillors:	* Miss Bednell * Margaret Davine (3) * Jean Lammiman * Anjana Patel	* Ray * Stephenson (in the Chair) (See Minute 46) * Thammaiah
Church of England:	Reverend P Reece	
Roman Catholic Church:	* Mr J Coyle Mr M Murphy	* Ms M Roe
Learning and Skills Council:	Mr T Masters	
Schools (Parent/Secondary):	* Mrs C Millard	
Schools (Parent/Primary):	* Ms J Tushaw	
Schools (Headteachers):	* Mrs M Arnold Mr D A Jones	Mr B A Robertson
Schools (Co-optee and Special)	Mrs P Langdon	
HCRE:	* Mr P Pawar	
Adviser:	* Mr B Leaver	

* Denotes Member present
(3) Denotes category of Reserve Member

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL
PART II - MINUTES

45. **Appointment of Chair:**
Nominations having been sought to the office of Chair, it was
- RESOLVED:** That Councillor Gate, a member of the Local Education Authority group, be appointed Chair of the Committee for 2004/2005 Municipal Year.
46. **Appointment of Chair for the Meeting:**
In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Gate, it was
- RESOLVED:** That Councillor Stephenson be appointed Chair for this meeting.
47. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**
- RESOLVED:** To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Member:-
- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Ordinary Member</u> | <u>Reserve Member</u> |
| Councillor Gate | Councillor Margaret Davine |
48. **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.

49. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

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

50. **Appointment of Vice-Chair:**

RESOLVED: That Mrs C Millard, a member of the Schools group, be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the 2004/2005 Municipal Year.

51. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2004, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

52. **Public Questions:**

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were put at the meeting under the provisions of Committee Procedure Rule 18.

53. **Petitions:**

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions were received at the meeting under the provisions of Committee Procedure Rule 15.

54. **Deputations:**

RESOLVED: To note that no deputations were received at the meeting under the provisions of Paragraph 15 of the Committee's Constitution.

55. **Shaping Schools for the Future:**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (People First) which outlined the strategy agreed by Cabinet for shaping schools for the future.

An Officer informed the meeting that Cabinet had established a Working Group consisting of Members, Headteachers, Officers and other Stakeholders, to develop options and proposals for the Shaping Schools for the Future programme. Officers explained that the purpose of the Working Group was to develop options to match school place provision with pupil demand and increase opportunities to provide local community services and resources through schools. There were currently Extended School pilot projects under way in the South Harrow, Harrow High and Canons clusters.

Cabinet had also agreed that the Working Group would finalise the draft Amalgamation Policy, which sought to achieve the Council's preferred model of school organisation by creating 'all through' schools. At their first meeting, the Working Group had emphasised the importance of the policy being clear, and wanted to ensure that sufficient resources were made available to keep stakeholders informed. The Working Group had also agreed to extend the consultation period on the Shaping Schools for the Future document. Officers confirmed that the Terms of Reference of the Working Group were available with the Cabinet papers.

In response to a question from a Member, officers explained that the Working Group had been selected from a variety of representative Groups and included cross-party Member representatives, Headteachers, Governors and Union/Professional association representatives. Special schools were not specifically represented on the Working Group, but members had extensive experience of SEN within mainstream schools.

Following further questions from members, officers explained that the Community Schools pilot would be carefully monitored in extended schools to ensure there was not an over-provision of services. Officers added that the activities provided by extended schools would form part of Area working in the People First Directorate. Officers recognised the expertise of the voluntary sector and explained that they would be key to providing extended skills.

RESOLVED: That (1) the membership and the Terms of Reference of the Working Group be noted;

(2) the Committee's comments on the circumstances when amalgamation is considered by Governing Bodies and the financial support for the first year be noted;

(3) the Committee's comments on the development of the support packages for schools through the process of the amalgamation policy be noted; and

(4) officers refer the Committee's comments to the Working Group.

REASON: To enable the Council to establish a range of Extended Schools, bring forward proposals for school reorganisation that will enable a change in the age of transfer to high school and manage the supply of school places.

56. **Updated School Roll Projections:**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (People First) which provided updated school roll projections.

Officers reminded the meeting that they had seen the framework of the projections previously. The roll projections were the first to be based on the new Wards, and the Planning Areas had been adjusted slightly to fit the new Ward Boundaries. Officers explained that turbulence in the figures following the 2001 Census was beginning to settle down and that the fertility ratios had now been factored in.

Officers referred the meeting to an analysis of previous projections outlined in the officer report which showed that, for each individual year group, the majority of projections were within 5% of the actual roll.

The number of four to ten year olds was predicted to decline until 2007 but to increase thereafter. Officers explained that they intended to wait for the following year's projections to confirm the trend. High School numbers were projected to decline over future years.

Members welcomed the use of new Ward boundaries in the production of the projections. Officers confirmed that birth information from Northwick Park Hospital was used to inform local projections and that this data did not include births to families living outside Harrow. Following comments from Members, officers informed the meeting that the population projections underlying the school roll projections were the same as those used for the Harrow Vitality profiles.

In response to questions from a Members, officers confirmed that they were able to provide a gender breakdown on some statistics.

RESOLVED: To note the content of the report.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.15 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR BILL STEPHENSON
Chair for the Meeting