

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CABINET

Wednesday, 21st July, 2010

The decisions contained within these minutes may not be implemented until the expiry of the 5 working day call-in period which will run from 23rd to 29th July. These minutes are draft until confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting.

Present:- **Councillors**

Councillor Francine Haeberling	Leader of the Council
Councillor Terry Gazzard	Cabinet Member for Development and Major Projects
Councillor Charles Gerrish	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery
Councillor Vic Pritchard	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Housing
Councillor Chris Watt	Cabinet Member for Children's Services

87 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair was taken by Councillor Francine Haeberling, Leader of the Council.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

88 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out on the Agenda

89 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors Malcolm Hanney and David Hawkins.

90 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There were no declarations of interest made.

91 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

The Chair announced the intention to consider item 13 (Keynsham Schools Review) before item 12 (Bath Schools Review) and to hear item 6 (Questions and Answers) at the end of the meeting.

92 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Susan Dunn made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the minutes as Appendix 2]* appealing to the Cabinet not to allow allotments in Pennyquick Park. Susan presented a petition of 622 signatures to Cabinet.

The Chair referred the petition to Councillor Charles Gerrish for his consideration and response.

93 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING WED 3RD MARCH 2010

On a motion from Councillor Francine Haerberling, seconded by Councillor Vic Pritchard, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd March 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

94 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

There were none

95 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BODIES

There were none

96 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

97 REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KEYNSHAM

Brian Davies (Chair of Governors, Broadlands School) made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 3]* welcoming the proposals to continue to provide two secondary schools in Keynsham. He looked forward to working with the Governors and staff of Wellsway School to ensure that local young people get the best opportunities.

Andrea Arlidge (Head, Wellsway School) made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 4]* supporting the proposal that there should continue to be two schools in Keynsham and committing to work with Broadlands School to serve the needs of the whole community.

Councillor Andrew Wait (Keynsham Town Council) said that the Town Council wished to express its support for the proposal that there should continue to be two schools in Keynsham because it would produce a stronger community. He took the opportunity, while speaking, to say that he was appalled that the Cabinet was considering closing Culverhay, which in his opinion was the best school in Bath.

Councillor Adrian Inker made a statement on behalf of the Labour Group supporting the proposal that there should continue to be two schools in Keynsham.

Councillor Nathan Hartley made a statement supporting the proposal that there should continue to be two schools in Keynsham. He reminded the Cabinet that the public consultation had shown that 92% of respondents had supported the retention of both Keynsham schools. He welcomed the confidence that would be given by the proposed assurance to both schools that no further reviews were envisaged.

Councillor Chris Watt introduced the item by reminding the Cabinet that the reason for the item being considered was the intention to raise educational outcomes for children in Keynsham. He recommended the proposals to the Cabinet for their approval.

Councillor Charles Gerrish seconded the proposal. He was pleased that the proposals would remove the uncertainty which the schools had suffered for some time. He passed on to the Cabinet the comments of Councillor Alan Hale, who as an old boy of Broadlands School was very supportive of the proposals.

Councillor Francine Haerberling observed that the response to the consultation had been extraordinary. She felt that it would be up to the two schools to work together to deliver the best education for local children.

On a motion from Councillor Chris Watt seconded by Councillor Charles Gerrish it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To NOTE the results of consultation on proposed changes to Keynsham secondary schools;

(2) To AGREE that there are no changes to Keynsham secondary schools;

(3) To INFORM the governing bodies of Broadlands and Wellsway schools that the Council has no plans to undertake further reviews in the foreseeable future.

98 REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN BATH

Ishbel Tovey made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 5]* in which she appealed to the Cabinet to support a coeducational Oldfield School.

Sarah Moore (Culverhay Parent Action Group) made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 6]* in which she emphasised the Community School status of Culverhay School. She reminded Cabinet members that the original proposals had been for a coeducational school on the Culverhay site and pointed out that the parent supporters' facebook page had 1224 signatures. She presented a petition of 1900 signatures to Cabinet calling for the retention of Culverhay as a coeducational school.

The Chair referred the petition to Councillor Chris Watt for his consideration and response in due course.

Annette Scoging made a statement in which she drew attention to the option in the report which referred to a possible coeducational school on the Culverhay site. This was the option which parents had been consulted about and at no time was the closure of Culverhay part of the consultation. She appealed to the Cabinet not to close Culverhay School.

James Eynon (Head Boy, Culverhay School) made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 7]* in which he explained the benefits he had

gained while at the school and appealing to the Cabinet to follow the original plans of one coeducational school in the north of the city and one in the south.

Bradley Weeks (Year 9 student, Culverhay School) made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 8]* in which he explained how he had grown in his abilities and confidence through the help given to him at his local school, Culverhay. He listed the activities provided by Culverhay School which he had found so valuable and he appealed to the Cabinet not to make students travel 3 times as far to get to school. .

Cheryl Pope (Head of St Mark's School) made a statement in which she expressed her delight that the Council would be supporting the imaginative solution created by St Mark's and St Gregory's by their federation. She anticipated the two schools benefiting greatly by the provision of new joint 6th Form facilities.

Councillor Paul Crossley made a statement reminding the Cabinet that the local community had always asked for a coeducational school on the site of Culverhay; that the Council had for 15 years led the community to believe that it would provide such a school; and that it was not equitable to oblige families with some of the lowest incomes in the area to pay the increased travel costs which would follow from the closure of Culverhay.

Councillor John Bull made a statement in which he appealed to the Cabinet to allow Full Council to debate the issue. He reminded the Cabinet that the consultation had been overwhelmingly in favour of local, coeducational provision across Bath and pointed out that children from less affluent homes performed better in community schools.

Councillor Nathan Hartley made a statement in which he expressed amazement that after 66% of parents had supported the original proposals for one school in the north and one in the south of the city, the Cabinet were now proposing that all the provision would be in the north of the city.

Councillor Dine Romero said that the proposals were basically flawed because they had not been based on any of the options consulted on. She pointed out that the closure of Culverhay would increase car travel across the city. She reminded Cabinet that Culverhay had a good OFSTED report and that it had been recognised as the highest value-added school in the country. Closing Culverhay would deliver nothing positive for the community south of the city.

Councillor Andy Furse made a statement objecting to the proposal to close Culverhay School because it did not acknowledge the increased traffic and transport implications; did not reflect the lower maintenance backlog compared to the other schools being reviewed; and did not recognise the community issues at stake. He appealed to the Cabinet to think again.

Gaynor Williams made a statement supporting the proposals that Oldfield School should become coeducational. She asked the Cabinet to work with the parents of Weston and surrounding areas to encourage the Head of Oldfield to embrace coeducational status.

Martin Powell (CoEd Oldfield Group) made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 9]* in which he said that he and other parents had

contacted the Head of Culverhay School to try to find ways they could work together. He appealed to the Cabinet to support the provision of coeducational education at Oldfield School.

Andy Lenthall (CoEd Oldfield Group) made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 10]* supporting the provision of coeducational education at Oldfield School.

Hilary Fraser expressed her sadness that the Cabinet appeared to be in such a rush to make the decision - she felt that the proposals were shoddy. Her view was that St Marks should close and should merge with Culverhay, which she felt would prove to be a successful collaboration.

Jamie Luck (ex-pupil of Culverhay School) made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 11]* in which he emphasised the importance of Culverhay School to its community; the dangers of estranging large numbers of young men by removing the supportive environment from which they currently benefit; and the social and economic cost of making the wrong decision.

Sarah Wall made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 12]* in which she said she felt that the community around Culverhay School had been deceived and cheated because the consultation had not mentioned the possibility now being considered by Cabinet. She appealed to the Cabinet not to move towards closure of Culverhay.

Jane Parsons (Manager, Southdown/Whiteway Church & Community Partnership) made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 13]* emphasising the needs of the area around Culverhay. She spoke warmly of the trust built up by the school over many years and its pivotal place in the community. She felt it would be a disgrace to close the school and appealed to the Cabinet to allow Culverhay to become a coeducational school, as had been promised for so many years.

Joanne Bond made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 14]* in which she referred to the wide spectrum of activities and courses for adults and children which took place at Culverhay School. She felt that to lose Culverhay would be a devastating blow to the community and asked the Cabinet to keep the school open.

Richard Thompson (Head, Culverhay School) made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 15]* who had been in post for less than a year but who had already become convinced of the unique ethos and character of the school. He believed the rationale for closure was weak and felt that Culverhay should be retained as part of the schools provision for Bath.

Councillor Gerry Curran (Chair of Governors, Culverhay School) made a statement in which he reminded the Cabinet that the Governors of Culverhay had campaigned for coeducational status for 15 years and had been promised that this was the intention once Oldfield school was persuaded to become coeducational. Now that this was happening, the Cabinet were considering breaking the long-standing promise. He reminded the Cabinet of Culverhay's excellent record at collaboration; its invaluable service to the community; and that it had been acknowledged in 2008

to be the most successful value-added school in the country. He appealed to the Cabinet to reconsider the issues and not to close the school.

Councillor Chris Watt introduced the report by saying that the Council had a responsibility to deliver the best education for all the children of Bath. To ensure this, it was necessary to set aside narrow interests. He reminded the Cabinet that the Council had been at the point of resolving its spare places problem before, and had hesitated at the critical moment. He referred to the consultation which showed that parents recognised the need to lose school places in Bath and that this involved the loss of one school. He pointed out that only a third of parents of children at Culverhay had chosen that school as their first choice. He recommended that Cabinet members adopt the proposals.

Councillor Terry Gazzard seconded the proposals. He told the meeting that the Cabinet had discussed this issue more than any other issue he had been involved in. There was an opportunity to place every child in an outstanding school – and he felt the Cabinet should take that opportunity.

Councillor Vic Pritchard asked if Councillor Watt had considered alternative uses for the Culverhay site, should the proposals be adopted.

Councillor Watt said that he would instruct officers to consider the options for the site, subject to the results of the statutory consultation process.

Councillor Charles Gerrish referred to the Bath Primary School Review and recalled that there had been discussions about a possible merger between Southdown Infant and Junior Schools. He asked whether Councillor Watt had considered whether any receipt from the closure of Culverhay School might be used to deliver improvements to primary education in Southdown.

Councillor Watt assured the Cabinet that all capital receipts were retained in the schools estate. The funds would be used to secure coeducational education in Oldfield School; provision of 6th Form facilities at St Mark's and St Gregory's after federation; and the remaining funds would be reinvested at the two Southdown primary schools.

Councillor Francine Haerberling observed that such decisions were never easy to make but she felt that the Cabinet must take the remaining opportunity to resolve the structural overprovision of secondary places in Bath.

Councillor Watt emphasised to the meeting that the decision being taken was not about saving money; it was about using the available funds wisely to improve education in the city. He pointed out that the proposal before Cabinet was to consult on the closure of Culverhay School, and if agreed that statutory consultation would take place in the autumn. He thanked all those who had attended to make their views known to Cabinet.

On a motion from Councillor Chris Watt, seconded by Councillor Terry Gazzard it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To SUPPORT the proposed federation of St Mark's C of E school on its current site with St Gregory's Catholic College, with joint Post 16 provision for both schools. Invite the two schools to proceed with this hard federation so that it is in place for 1 September 2011;

(2) To SUPPORT Oldfield school in seeking to become a co-educational academy and obtain written confirmation from the Head and the Governing Body by Friday 17 September 2010 that co-educational status has been included in the school's Application to Convert to an Academy sent to the Secretary of State, with the intention that it will become a co-educational academy by 1 September 2012;

(3) That if written confirmation that co-educational status has been included in Oldfield school's Application to convert to an Academy by Wednesday 1 September 2012 is not received by Friday 17 September 2010 the LA to commence a competition to invite proposers to submit bids for a new 160 place co-educational 11-18 school on the existing Oldfield school site and to propose the closure of Oldfield school and the opening of a new co-educational school on 1 September 2012;

(4) To CONSULT on the proposal to close Culverhay school.

99 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2009/10

Councillor Francine Haeberling introduced the report which was the annual outturn report for 2009/10. She proposed that Cabinet adopt the report and its recommendations.

Councillor Vic Pritchard seconded the proposal.

On a motion from Councillor Francine Haeberling, seconded by Councillor Vic Pritchard it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To note the 2009/10 Treasury Management Annual Report to 31st March 2010, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice;

(2) To note the 2009/10 actual Treasury Management Indicators;

(3) To refer the Treasury Management Outturn Report and attached appendices to July Council.

100 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2009/10

Councillor Francine Haeberling introduced the report which was the annual outturn report for 2009/10. She proposed that Cabinet adopt the report and its recommendations.

Councillor Charles Gerrish in seconding the proposals paid tribute to officers for turning round a projected overspend.

On a motion from Councillor Francine Haeberling, seconded by Councillor Charles Gerrish it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

- (1) To note the provisional revenue budget outturn for 2009/10;
- (2) To approve the revenue carry forward proposals and write-off requests as exceptions to the Budget Management Scheme;
- (3) That the Revenue Budget Contingency is increased by £2.290m and that earmarked reserves totalling £214k related to the Carbon Management and Procurement Programmes are created;
- (4) To approve the revenue virements for 2009/10 and 2010/11;
- (5) To note the resulting reserves position and that unearmarked reserves remain at the target level of £10.5m;
- (6) To note the provisional outturn of the 2009/10 capital programme and funding;
- (7) To approve the capital rephasing;
- (8) To approve the capital programme 2010/11 items;
- (9) To note the adjustments to the 2009/10 to 2013/14 capital programme and the final capital programme for 2009/10;
- (10) To note the use of growth points funding in 2009/10, and to agree the proposed approach for 2010/11;
- (11) To note the efficiencies achieved during 2009/10.

101 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 5 questions from the following people: Councillor John Bull, Councillor Eleanor Jackson, Councillor Nathan Hartley, Councillor Andy Furse (2).

[Copies of the questions and response, including supplementary questions and responses if any, have been placed on the Minute book as Appendix 1 and are available on the Council's website.]

There were no supplementary questions.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services

Minute Item 92

- Good evening I am Brian Davies Chair of Governors at Broadlands School.
- We have read the report about Keynsham and we are delighted that the recommendation is to keep Broadlands.
- The school and the wider community made clear its support for the school throughout the consultation process and we are pleased that the views and opinions have been listened to.
- We know that Broadlands is a great school and we are pleased that this has been recognised.
- Keeping two schools in Keynsham means that parents and young people in our area will continue to have choice.
- Broadlands looks forward to working with Wellsway school in the future to ensure that the young people in this area get the best opportunities and now that the cloud that has hung over the school for 2 and a half years has lifted we can finally move forward for the benefit of all.
- I would personally like to thank all of the people who have supported Broadlands and believed in us.
- We thank Councillors and officers for the wisdom shown in this recommendation for Keynsham to continue to have two schools.

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Cabinet Meeting submission from Wellsway School

(Andrea Arlidge, Head)

Madam Chair, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of Wellsway School.

It has always been the position of the Governing Body at Wellsway that, without the funding needed to transform the school buildings into a 21st century learning environment, the original proposal was flawed. It is on this basis, therefore, that the Governing Body supports the new recommendation that there should continue be two schools in Keynsham.

The uncertainty created by these proposals has led to a difficult situation, particularly for Broadlands School. The consultation itself has been a very painful experience that has caused a rift within our community. We hope that you will make the decision today that will enable us to work together to heal this rift and to ensure that Wellsway and Broadlands can collaborate to provide the best for every child who attends our 2 schools, regardless of which local authority they live in.

During the consultation process certain things have been said that are undermining of Wellsway School and I would like to set the record straight on two areas in particular:

1. Wellsway School has, over the last 3 years, been on a journey of rapid school improvement and, to quote your own School Improvement Partner's latest annual report, is: "A school well on the journey from satisfactory to outstanding. It is now a good school with many outstanding features. Its capacity for further improvement is outstanding."
2. Wellsway is a fully inclusive school that supports all children, including those with special educational needs, extremely well. Three weeks ago we came to the Guildhall to receive the Inclusion Quality Mark in recognition of this fact. Of the many awards that we have received in recent years, this is one of which I, as Headteacher, am particularly proud of.

In fact we are very proud of all that Wellsway stands for and achieves and I hope that you are too.

In making your decision today, you as Councillors have a huge responsibility to support our two schools as we begin the process of reconciliation.

In the case of Wellsway, we need considerable investment to be made in the fabric of our buildings. I know that the Council recognises this and the re-organisation proposal in part contained the means to realise this investment. I urge you to consider how you will now deliver the investment that Wellsway so clearly needs.

To sum up, I would like to re-iterate our support for keeping Broadlands School open, and retaining two schools in Keynsham, and re-state our commitment to seeking to work in partnership with Broadlands to best serve the needs of all the communities that we serve.

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Ishbel Tovey Secondary School Reorganisation Meeting – 21st July 2010

The three schools under threat have one thing in common – they are all under-used by their communities. Tonight, I am here to assure you that if Oldfield were coed it would not remain underused for long. A massive 98% of the parents we surveyed in Newbridge and Weston have expressed a desire for just such a school.

But, before you make your decision tonight I would urge you all to look at the map of Bath and see where the schools are currently located. You will see that if Oldfield were closed it would leave a significant area of the city without a school. And two of your aims are, after all, to make local schools the natural choice and avoid long travel times for children.

Any school closure is devastating for the children at the school but to close Oldfield would disadvantage all the children in the North West of Bath. They would last on the list for entry to all the remaining schools. There are no other schools nearby. Ralph Allen is 5 miles from Weston. Culverhay is over an hours walk and 50 mins in a bus. Beechencliff and Hayesfield involve crossing the river. Although it is argued for the purposes of this consultation that Hayesfield and Beechencliff be considered as central, I doubt that even the most unscrupulous of estate agents would dare to advertise a property neighbouring Beechencliff as central. That leaves the only other school in the north - St Marks. It is an hour away by bus and takes you through some of the worst congestion in town. It would not be sensible to have children crossing from the North west to the North East or vice versa. The congestion along the London Road is one of the biggest challenges facing this council, surely it is madness to add to it.

Culverhay, however, is close to many other schools such as St Gregs, Hayesfield and Beechencliff and only a 15min bus-ride from Ralph Allen.

If Oldfield were to become co-ed, it would put right a school system which has been wrong for years. Boys in our area have been forced to travel long distances to Beechencliff (their nearest school) – 50 mins by bus, £3.10 a day or an hours walk (check) and their sisters have followed them to Hayesfield as it makes sense to parents to have their children in the same part of the city and to drive them when they can. Imagine how congestion on the Windsor Bridge would be relieved if those children were schooled in their own area north of the river. If the council is serious about tackling congestion and reaching their carbon emissions targets, they must stop this daily flow of school children across the river.

Bath is a city divided into North and South by a river. 45% of children live in the North and 55% in the South. Any solution which fails to take that into account is doomed. It is ludicrous to have one school in the North and 5 in the South.

The argument that Culverhay School should remain open because it serves a deprived area is a compelling one but, not if the only way to do so is to deprive the children of the North West of Bath for generations to come. I remain unconvinced that it is necessary to close one of Bath's seven secondary schools in order to save just £250K a year but if one is to close, then it should not be Oldfield.

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Sarah Moore Statement to Cabinet 21-Jul-10

I am a parent of a 12 year old boy with Special needs that currently attends Culverhay and at the point these changes would take effect he would be at the most vulnerable stage in his education and would totally disrupt his future prospects.

The vision of BANES Council stated each secondary school BECOMES a learning campus where Sport and Cultural facilities and extended services are located together for the benefit of young people and the wider community,

Culverhay is categorised as a Community school. It is the only school with an Aquaterra leisure centre on-site for use by the wider community, it runs evening classes and courses in the holidays for the community and is used by the surrounding primary schools for a wide variety of activities. It is also a school of choice for Bath Spa University.

In BANES last released admission booklet, Jan 09, the number of students on role at St Marks was 296, however the number at Culverhay was 371, how can accepting this proposal of opening another co-ed school in the North and allowing St Mark's to form a hard federation increase this number.

The Council wants schools where the curriculum design actively engages young people in their learning, Culverhay is one of only a few schools in the Country with an excellent, established Enrichment program, it has it's own Air Cadet Core and it's own student run radio station.

The Cabinet meeting in 2008 unanimously agreed with the proposals put forward to have one new co-educational school in the NORTH of the city and one new co-educational school in the SOUTH.

The documentation provided to ALL parents did not mention the chance of closing Culverhay for good, but providing a co-educational school on the site, which is why there was a low response from parents and the community in the South and as the Council have agreed that they want 6 not 7 secondary schools in BANES if this report is accepted, it would appear that no further consultation process will be able to save the school.

If, as the proposed Academies bill states any new Academy takes it's pupils wholly or mainly from the area in which it is situated, by your own figures (72%), Oldfield's application would not be able to go ahead, and the recently announced amendment suggests Oldfield would have to have another OFSTED review carried out prior to any award as their last one was over 24 months ago, so how can you agree to back this option.

I have already submitted to the cabinet, the comments of support for a co-educational school at Culverhay, received up to 14th July on the Chronicle site and also our facebook page which now has 1,224 members and I have here a petition signed within the last 3 weeks by over 1,900 members of Culverhay's community in support of the school remaining on the site and converting to a co-educational non-denominational school as originally proposed by the panel to Bath and North East Somerset.

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My name is James Eynon and I am Head Boy of Culverhay School.

Let me introduce myself, in September I will start year 13, where I will be studying History, English Literature, Media and Sport. I'm looking into media production as a possible future career after University.

When I started at Culverhay, I was an extremely shy and timid boy who was absolutely petrified of secondary school. If I'd been to a larger school such as Beechen Cliff I would have been thrust to the side and given half-hearted help meaning I'd probably now be in a similar position as I was then with a low attendance that would've had a detrimental effect on my education. But Culverhay gave me consistent, non-wavering help throughout year 7 meaning I was able to, 4 years later, get 15 and a half GCSE's; including 3 A*'s and 12 A's and giving me the confidence to stand in front of you now.

Culverhay offers a vast, inclusive framework to enable pupils from all backgrounds to get the most from their schooling.

Culverhay has teachers who can adapt themselves to individuals to give the best teaching possible. Many who are targeted low grades at the beginning of year 7 end up with grades exceeding their targets by 1,2, even 3 grades. I can't think of many other schools that can give such a pupil-specific education and this is down to the excellent rapport between teacher and student.

What I think sets the school apart from any other is the range of extra-curricular activities available to those who would not ordinarily be able to take part in them (activities such as drama, radio and cultural visits). The enrichment programme on Wednesday afternoons and Challenge Days have been innovative ideas that have enhanced the school. The links between the school and the Egg Theatre has brought the opportunity for pupils to act in a professional environment as well as improve their creativity and confidence. I've had the opportunity to publish poetry and short stories as well as performing them in poetry slams at venues such as this. The school's radio station offers opportunities to explore the media industry. Great sports facilities mean pupils can do sports from football to judo; something many wouldn't have been able to do otherwise. What other schools in the area offer so much to those from underprivileged backgrounds as Culverhay?

While others ask 'what can you do for us?' Culverhay asks 'what can we do for you?' Ofsted reports show Culverhay is improving year on year and so why close a growing institution? Imagine how many children from less fortunate areas such as Whiteway and Twerton will miss out on the opportunities I have had; to explore the world, to explore education and to explore themselves. You will find no other school that can give this support to their pupils and after all the hard work that has gone into making Culverhay better it would be criminal to close it.

The recommendation to close Culverhay goes completely against the public opinion and views shown in the consultation. The overall consensus was that people saw the need for 1 co-ed school in the north and 1 in the south. How do the recommendations of Messrs Watt and Parker fulfil this need?

The ethos of the school says it all; Culverhay does all that is possible to enable all pupils from all backgrounds to get the best all-round education possible.

I want to see future generations given the same opportunities as myself and I can think of no other establishment that gives such a comprehensively well-rounded education for its students at the school I owe my life to; Culverhay.

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My Speech for Keeping Culverhay Open.

I am here today to persuade the Local Authority to keep Culverhay, my school, open. I am not just speaking for myself but for the Community, and also for the students at Culverhay. I am a Culverhay student in Year 9. My name is Bradley Weeks.

Being honest, the first time I walked into Culverhay I wished I never picked this school to come and learn and succeed in my life. Now I am proud that I picked this school because I think I can get far and really progress through my schooling career.

Through out the years at Culverhay I have improved in so many skills which I wouldn't have thought I would gain. Such as: My speaking skills and my listening skills.

If the Local Authority closes my school 96% of the students at Culverhay who live in Whiteway, Twerton, Oldfield Park and Southdown have to find a new school and travel 3 times as far as they do now to get to there new school.

Why close my school when we had the best added value for students in the whole of Banes apart from Writhlington School?

If I have to go to another school I won't achieve as much, because no one does in my area. At Culverhay I am given lots of opportunities that I would not get at other schools.

At Culverhay we had a good range of activities on Weekdays, on a Wednesday Afternoon we can either play sports catch up on missed work, draw, and maybe even read? Luckily at the end of ever term we can have a trip, but its still educational themes such as: Helping Hands, Arts and Craft, Challenge and Adventure, Creative Power, National and International and Good Sport. For an example Helping Hands could be going out to the Old Peoples Home and helping them out with problems.

And finally we all come to school to learn and progress through are schooling career. Everyone at Culverhay are committed to there school and always have a great time in school and when there on offsite trips too!

Thank You for listening and it is really been appreciated.

Please keep my school open,

Thanks.

Secondary School Reorganisation – Cabinet meeting 21st July 2010

My name is Martin Powell. I am the parent of two primary school age girls and one boy, as well as being a primary school governor.

Firstly, having spent over a year working with councillors and parents in Brighton on school admissions a few years ago, where the fallout from the local authority shutting a school was different areas of the city at each others throats, I welcome that all the different school campaign groups in Bath have recognised each other's right to fight for a local secondary school in their area.

In fact it was in that spirit that some weeks ago I contacted the head of Culverhay on behalf of the Co Ed Oldfield Group to see if we could find "common cause" as Mr Thomson put it, to keep both our schools open. And whatever the outcome of this process I hope we as parents can all work together to support whatever schools remain, and press the council and government to deliver the best educational services possible for all our children, where ever they live.

Supporters of the Co Ed Oldfield Group have now sent hundreds of letters, and handed in a petition with hundreds more signatures to the Council and to Michael Gove, not to mention Oldfield School itself calling for a Co-ed Oldfield school because this:

- a) Would have huge support in the local community. As a result the school will be filled with local children, thrive, and boost community cohesion.
- b) Would ensure the best geographical distribution of schools. 45% of Bath's children live in the north of the city, having two schools to serve them (rather than just one) will be much fairer to children and parents, and reduce traffic, particularly at key hotspots like the Windsor Bridge.
- c) Would boost choice - shutting Oldfield would mean a large area of the city left with no local school. While we support Culverhay staying open too, if it did shut, the children in that area would at least still have access to a range of nearby schools, as well as Oldfield for those nearer the river. As the officers' report underlines, in terms of admissions, far more children will be disadvantaged if Oldfield School is shut than with the other options under consideration.
- d) Given the school's outstanding Ofsted rating, three specialisms and work supporting less effective schools, having a co ed Oldfield will maximise the number of children getting an outstanding education in Bath.

In short, personally and on behalf of the Co Ed Oldfield Group I urge the Cabinet to support proposals to have a Co Educational Oldfield School. Thank you.

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Andy Lenthall Statement to Cabinet 21-July-10

First and foremost, I am saddened that any school in Bath has to close but, as the Council remains convinced that this is the only option to resolve the issue of too many desks, keeping Oldfield School open as a co-educational school, whether as an academy or remaining under local authority control is the best for the city.

As a member of the co-educational Oldfield group and a parent of a 10 year old daughter deciding on senior schools next October, I am astounded that, under the current arrangements, our only realistic choices for a local school are all-girls. If we were to have a co-educational school as our first choice, it is highly likely that we wouldn't get a place next year. If Oldfield were currently co-educational, it would be our first choice.

The council's aims for improvements in standards are commendable and entirely achievable. Taking an already-outstanding school and refocussing it as a co-educational establishment for ALL children would be a massive step towards achieving its aims; closing Oldfield, removing choice and forcing more children to make tiring journies across an already-congested city would hinder progress towards excellence – and a local, excellent education is something that we all want for our children.

Criticism has been levelled at Oldfield's disproportionate intake of children from South Gloucestershire and Bristol. It is not only the fact that half of the children in the local area can't attend the school because they happen to be boys, but the shadow of the axe that has been hanging over Oldfield, the logistics of sending a boy to Beechen Cliff and a girl to Oldfield AND sibling guarantees that have favoured the Beechen Cliff/Hayesfield option for parents with girls and boys that has created a skewed 'market' for school admissions. The co-educational Oldfield group has conducted a simple survey, the results show that parents of primary-age children within Oldfield's catchment would indeed consider sending their children to a coeducational school in their local area.

My daughter's year has 70 pupils, boys and girls, whose parents would welcome the choice of a local, outstanding co-educational school. There are several more schools within walking distance that would provide fulllly-subscribed intake to a co-educational Oldfield School. A co-educational scholl in our community would be supported by our community.

To close Oldfield would remove the choice of a co-educational, non-denominational school for the North of Bath, a choice that parents in the South of the City already have and will still have if the Council's choice follows the recommendations.

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My name is Jamie Luck. I am Creative Associate at the RSC, and as an ex Culverhay student I'm here today to reason against the closure of the school, and I don't do this for nostalgia's sake. I do this because I don't think those who propose the closure actually understand its value – whether it be the value it offers its current students, or the many that could benefit if the Council are capable of realising its long proposed ambitions for a mixed school on the site.

My time as a student at Culverhay was a rude awakening. After the relative shelter of Newbridge Junior School, this wasn't the Bath I had known. So I grew up, I toughened. I had inspiring teachers, and less inspiring teachers. And great teachers certainly aren't unique to Culverhay.

But my education at Culverhay was a time spent in a part of Bath that many tourists and politicians will never visit - a school that deals in the social diversity of this city. And with diversity comes diverse learning needs. Amongst many other things, Culverhay is a master of the art of keeping boys engaged in mainstream education who'd be permanently excluded by many schools. That was the case in my day, and remains the case now. And your figures can't tell this story for you, because many of those boys that would be on fixed term exclusions at other schools, wouldn't find themselves out of lessons at Culverhay.

I know this. I spent 7 years in those classrooms as a student, and another 7 working with young people "at risk" across Bath's secondary schools.

This brilliance of Culverhay's is not a simple thing to explain in an education system that values exam results over more intelligent measures of success, and that very specific "inclusivity" won't come up on your calculator when you're making decisions led by admissions figures.

However, in a few years time, I think you'll realise you have done your sums wrong. When numbers of male exclusions from secondary schools begin to increase, it is the young males that could have been cherished at Culverhay that will suffer from your bad maths. And those expedient financial decisions suddenly won't seem so fruitful; dealing with students once they're excluded isn't a cheap business.

I believe your high-academic school achievers will always be fine wherever they're sent, as I was, and your middle classes will always be able to afford a bus-ride to a secondary school across town, as I could. But is our education system in Bath really about the needs of the able many, against the more specific needs of the few.

When the Avon Council of 80s was placed in a similar situation by the actions of Beechen Cliff, the council pursued the matter to the high courts, such was their commitment to a mixed school on the Rush Hill site. Decades later, in its place we have a Council that has been bullied out of its best laid plans by Oldfield School, and will now pick on one of our smallest school as a quick fix. These are actions of the bullied, now bullying. It is not the actions of a Council that understands the heartbeat, spirit and complexities of its people.

So it ultimately comes down to have you made the right call. And you haven't. Culverhay closing might be the best thing for your budgets, and an easy way out of a confrontation with secondary schools that don't play fair, but this is not the best thing for the city.

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Cabinet 21-July-2010 Statement by Sarah Wall

I feel that Culverhay & the community around it has been deceived and cheated by this consultation, nowhere within the consultation document does it even suggest that a school will not remain on the Culverhay site.

Amongst the many community services Culverhay provides are the very important, much used and very needed sports facilities all of which will be lost with the school. A large part of the community that this school services is Twerton, which has been identified as one of the most deprived areas in the country, how then can this panel recommend removing this school & its vital resources from such an area?

Over 98% of Culverhay pupils live in B&NES, many within in walking distance. How then can B&NES justify closing this school and suggest Oldfield School stay open when over 72% of their pupils live outside of B&NES. Where is B&NES support of the healthy school's initiative and encouraging pupils to walk to school?

How does the panel propose that the pupils who attend Culverhay will get to school if it is closed, how are parents in an area of high deprivation suppose to finance travel to school? And how will another school motivate these boys to attend & achieve? This is something which Culverhay does so well.

Culverhay takes the dreams & aspirations of its pupils and enables them to turn them into reality; that is fact; Culverhay is in the top 5% of schools nationally for individual pupil progress, few other B&NES school can boast of these figures. Under the Every Child Matters legislation how can B&NES possibly suggest the closure of a school that enables their pupils to achieve so much?

The one thing that has been clear for a very long time is that parents in this authority want more co-educational places, which is something that Culverhay has been keen to develop for several years and have co-operated with the LEA during this consultation and are prepared to continue to do so.

It appears that the panel's decision has been swayed by Oldfield hiding behind an out of date 3 & a half year old OFSTED report & their announcement that they are to apply for academy status. It also seems that the head teacher of Oldfield cares nothing for the children of this authority or the wishes of their parents and appears to hold them along with the democratic process in complete contempt through her refusal to participate in this consultation & by encouraging the parents of her pupils to ignore it. Cllr Chris Watt is reported to have said "It remains difficult to cooperate or coordinate with Oldfield" Why then would the panel suggest keeping this school open & closing Culverhay when 66% of those who responded to the consultation wanted a co-educational school on the north of the city & one on the south, why then has the panel gone against what the majority want? Why consult if you're going to ignore the outcome?

I beg that this cabinet do not allow the children of this authority to be denied a school which always puts their needs first, by allowing the authority to be backed into a corner & bullied by one school using rushed through legislation from a government in its infancy. Rather B&NES must show the young people of this authority that they really do matter by standing up for their rights and opening a co-educational school at Culverhay, a school 98% of whose pupils live in B&NES and who ensure that very individual pupil really does achieve their very best.

Finally if Oldfield is such an outstanding school then why is it under subscribed and why does it have to take so many out of county pupils, surely if it's ethos was that good then every parent in B&NES would be fighting to get their daughter in there, instead many girls who live near to Oldfield choose Hayesfield.

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Statement of Jane Parsons , Partnership Manager **Southdown Methodist Church Centre**

I speak as someone who has been working in and with the local community for more than fifteen years.

I was appalled at the idea that Culverhay, a school at the very heart of the community, and originally built for that very purpose should be closed.

Culverhay serves an area where there are many needs. Over the years it has built enormous trust between its pupils and their families through its ethos of care and compassion.

It is a school with a good success rate as it works individually and collectively with its pupils and their families to realise their full potential.

But it offers much more than just the academic success. It provides many other relevant activities so that the pupils can learn and enjoy developing new skills for their future development in the outside world.

The school, because of its particular Community base, is an integral part of the Community

In an area of many social needs the closure of Culverhay will have a huge impact on the Community, its pupils and families.

At the Southdown Methodist Centre we have developed a close link with the school and have enjoyed the pupils' involvement in our community work.

I ask that Culverhay be allowed to continue to serve its local community as a co-educational school . There is a need for it to remain open.

What message are we sending to the local community by its planned closure?

It is an absolute disgrace to treat the school in such a shabby manner and deprive the community of this facility on this site .

July 19th 2010

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Joanne Bond – Statement to Cabinet, 21st July 2010

Thank you for the chance to show my support for Culverhay School. I am an active member of the parent action group that was set up following the decision of the council to recommend the closure of Culverhay. I am a parent of a current Year 8 boy. Since attending Culverhay my son has blossomed and matured. In many of the subjects he is achieving above his Year 9 targets. The school provides the boys with a sound academic learning environment. In addition to this it provides the children with opportunities to enrich their lives through the extracurricular activities. Challenge days provide the boys with the chance to go out into the community and lend a helping hand. The boys are subjected to many varied and challenging opportunities to learn and are given the support and guidance they need to rise to them.

I feel as a parent that my son is valued within the school and because of this he has the utmost respect for the teachers and staff of the school. They have taken the time to get to know him as an individual and have used this knowledge in order to push him further. The communication that I have had between the school and myself has always been a positive experience and I am able to approach the school if I feel the need arises. At regular intervals throughout the school year I am kept up to date on my son's progress. I firmly believe that the school ensures that every child really does matter.

If this school were to close the communities that it serves will suffer greatly. The school provides a hub for the learning community, they provide for the children of many local primary, infant and junior schools by giving them the use of their swimming pool in which to teach the children. The schools also have sport festivals at regular times throughout the year. Many of the boys at Culverhay go into the local schools and engage the children in sporting activities as part of their sports leadership program.

The school delivers courses for the adult community that help to improve life chances in the workplace; they also help develop social skills for adults in need. The school works with organisations and agencies on site to provide a wide range of activities. The school provides a base for parenting and family support workers.

The school also runs a holiday club during school holidays. All of these services are provided under the umbrella of extended services, Culverhay has excelled at this government initiative. The extended schools provision is excellent and is available to all children who wish to attend. The services provided at the school ensure that children and parents are given more opportunities and support; this in turn ensures that the every child matters programme is breaking down barriers for the underprivileged children of the area.

The local community would also lose their leisure centre; this is a fantastic alternative to having to travel into the centre of Bath. The consultation document of 2009 states that the guiding principles in their vision are that 'each secondary school becomes a learning campus where sport and cultural facilities and extended services are located together for the benefit of young people and the wider community.' The fact is that Culverhay School fulfil this requirement extensively. It is classed as a community school in your admissions booklet. To loose Culverhay school would be a devastating blow to the communities it provides for. The school plays a vital role in community cohesion and it encourages everyone to become involved.

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Statement to Cabinet 21-7-10

I am Richard Thomson and it is my privilege to be the Headteacher at Culverhay School.

Having been in post since September, I have quickly come to learn what is distinctive and special about Culverhay. I have become absolutely convinced that its unique ethos and character as a good and improving school should be retained as part of the educational offer for parents and children in Bath.

I would like to remind members of the Cabinet about the educational principles at the heart of the original consultation process, namely to ensure that parents can access good, local schools which are at the heart of their communities. This I believe is an accurate description of Culverhay and you will hear a number of representations tonight from parents, our young people and community partners to attest to the quality of the work Culverhay does in the south of the city. It is disappointing to see that the importance of community has apparently disappeared from recent discourse about secondary education within the city, but I would urge members of the Cabinet to weigh the track record of each school under review in terms of the strength of its community partnerships, when making their deliberations tonight.

I believe the rationale being used to justify the closure of Culverhay is weak and involves a series of assumptions which are based more upon statements of faith than hard evidence. The Local Authority is attaching a great deal of weight to potential partnerships emerging within the city, but I would like to point out that Culverhay has already demonstrated a strong track record of developing such partnerships successfully, for the benefit of the young people and the community served by the school. For example, in 2008/9 the school worked collaboratively with Norton Hill School, an outstanding provider and this year it has developed effective partnerships with St Gregory's Catholic College, another outstanding provider. Next year, Culverhay will be supported by a third outstanding provider, namely the John Cabot Academy in Kingswood and we see this established practice as strong evidence of our capacity and determination to become an outstanding coeducational academy, serving the south side of the city. This commitment exactly reflects the aspirations outlined in the consultation booklet.

I recognise that the Cabinet and the Local Authority are in a desperately difficult position, as both seek to address the long standing issue of surplus places and the prospect of severe cuts in education spending. However, there is a real danger, if all of the recommendations laid before cabinet tonight are adopted, that an ill-advised decision may be taken, which would have a significantly detrimental effect upon the community served by my school. Culverhay adds significant value to children's lives, both in terms of their achievement and their development as active, engaged and positive young citizens and should be retained as part of the provision available to the parents of Bath.

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CABINET MEETING 21st July 2010

The following Statements and Questions had been registered by the time of publication.

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

There were 27 notices of intention to make a statement at the meeting. Where the intention is to speak about an item on the Agenda, the speaker will be offered the option to speak near the beginning of the meeting or just before the Agenda item.

- **Susan Dunn**
Re: Petition – Allotments and Play Area, Twerton

Re: Bath Schools Review (Agenda Item 12)

- **Ishbel Tovey**
- **Sarah Moore (Culverhay Parent Action Group)**
- **Annette Scoging (Petition – Save Culverhay School)**
- **James Eynon (Head Boy, Culverhay School)**
- **Bradley Weeks (Year 9 student, Culverhay School)**
- **Cheryl Pope (Head of St Mark's School)**
- **Cllr Paul Crossley**
- **Cllr John Bull**
- **Cllr Nathan Hartley**
- **Cllr Dine Romero**
- **Cllr Andy Furse**
- **Gaynor Williams**
- **Martin Powell**
- **Andy Lenthall**
- **Hilary Fraser**
- **Jamie Luck (ex-pupil of Culverhay School)**
- **Sarah Wall**
- **Jane Parsons (Mgr, Southdown/Whiteway Church & Community Partnership)**
- **Joanne Bond**
- **Richard Thompson (Head of Culverhay School)**
- **Cllr Gerry Curran (Chair of Governors, Culverhay School)**

Re: Keynsham Schools Review (Agenda Item 13)

- **Brian Davies (Chair of Governors, Broadlands School)**
- **Andrea Arlidge (Head, Wellsway School)**
- **Cllr Andrew Wait (Keynsham Town Council)**
- **Cllr Adrian Inker**
- **Cllr Nathan Hartley**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

01	Question from:	Councillor John Bull
	In the 2010/11 Budget a sum of £80,000 was delegated to the Leader and Deputy Leader to be spent at their discretion. How has this money been spent?	
	Answer from:	Councillor Malcolm Hanney
	<i>I can confirm that only £30,000, from the £83,000 fund set aside when the 2010/11 budget was set, has so far been allocated. This is to fund another 12 months of the portaloo scheme in Orange Grove which is intended to reduce anti social behaviour and support the Council's efforts to positively impact on the effects of the nigh time economy in Bath.</i>	
02	Question from:	Councillor Eleanor Jackson
	Can the cabinet give assurances that St Nicholas CE Primary School Radstock, and the privately run pre school which is attached to it will not suffer any financial or personnel loss (if the number of pupils declines because of the rebuild) because of the construction problems, and that if a 'Bath Spa' legal situation develops between the authority, the architect and the developers, the contingency fund or other appropriate source will be used to complete the building work as soon as possible?	
	Answer from:	Councillor Chris Watt
	<i>Children Service officers are working with the school to prevent financial or personnel loss and arrangements are already in place to support the school. The school cooks and cleaning staff for example will continue to work for the school. Regular education project meetings have been organised to ensure school management needs are identified and resolved, including immediate financial</i>	

support which will be included in insurance claim. This project is a totally different scale and complexity to Bath Spa. This is a relatively straightforward case of a completed building for which there is now an identified fault, liability admitted and detailed work on a solution is underway. It is therefore extremely unlikely there will be need to call on either central council contingency or children service capital

03

Question from:	Councillor Nathan Hartley
In September 2008 the Cabinet member said "It is our aim for all Bath and North East Somerset's schools to achieve the Food For Life Partnership bronze award". Could the Cabinet member report on how much progress has been made towards this goal?	
Answer from:	Councillor Chris Watt
<p><i>Numbers of Bath and NES schools engaged with Food for Life Partnership @ July 2010 is 27 (35% of schools). Most of the schools engaged have included gaining the Bronze award as an indicator of their progress towards Healthy Schools Plus recognition.</i></p> <p><i>Several schools are meeting the requirements for bronze, but are yet to apply for the mark.</i></p> <p><i>Number of Bath and NES schools achieving Bronze award is 3</i></p> <p><i>Number of Bath and NES schools achieving Silver award is 2</i></p> <p><i>Number of Bath and NES schools achieving Gold award is 1</i></p> <p><i>We have two flagship schools (Twerton Infants and St John's MSN) and two schools are about to become a joint flagship. These are Oldfield park Infants and Oldfield Park Juniors. This is a significant number of schools with the flagship status considering the size of Bath and NES.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, catering Services has the FFL Caterer Bronze award.</i></p>	

04

Question from:	Councillor Andy Furse
Does the Cabinet member agree that discouraging people from feeding birds could contribute towards reducing the nuisance caused by gulls in Bath? Has the Cabinet member given any thought to designating bird feeding as littering, which I believe is possible under the Environment Protection Act 1990, and to installing simple signage to that effect in key locations such as Kingsmead Square?	
Answer from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
<i>Gulls are clever, opportunistic feeders and will scavenge food waste from streets</i>	

where possible. Their main food supply is however more likely to be from agricultural land and landfill sites many miles from the nesting sites in Bath. It is known that gulls will travel as far as 50 km to obtain food.

Whilst it could be argued that discouraging people from feeding gulls would contribute to a reduction in nuisance created by them, it is difficult to see that this would have a significant impact on the overall problem of urban gulls in Bath.

It is possible to consider bird feeding as a littering offence under s.87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 but experience has shown that this matter requires sensitive intervention and enforcement would not necessarily be the most appropriate course of action in every case.

In response to feedback from residents, the Council is erecting signs in specific areas where bird feeding is considered a problem. Signs will be initially trialled in St James's Park in Lower Borough Walls, Bath and monitoring by the Neighbourhood Manager will determine whether this is effective in discouraging bird feeding.

We are currently in discussions about the possible enhancement of Kingsmead Square and I have instructed officers to suggest that appropriate signage be installed as part of any scheme for this location.

05

Question from:	Councillor Andy Furse
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Can the Cabinet member please confirm how long the "HGV Only" ramp will be in operation between Westgate Street and Monmouth Street? The TRO was apparently due to expire on 2nd July and I have not seen an updated TRO; is the ramp still in operation?

Answer from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
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The ramp is expected to stay in operation until the works to make Bluecoat House safe are completed. The works require Listed Building Consent which is currently under consideration. The decision will be made by the Secretary of State c/o the Government Office and it is hoped that this will be towards the end of August. However the precise date for determination is outside the control of this Council. Following the decision there will then be a further 12 week work program to make the building safe.

The Temporary Traffic Regulation Order is currently operative for 6 months but can be extended if required. The reference in the Notice to 3 months was the anticipated works period.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

There were none