

## **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.