

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 Haeberling, 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 Haeberling 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 Haerberling 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 Haerberling, 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 Haerberling 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 Haerberling, 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: Councillors John Bull, Eleanor Jackson, Nathan Hartley, 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