

Four weeks ago I said that I felt that Culverhay & the community around it has been deceived and cheated by the consultation. Since then 27 councillors have agreed with me by signing the call in request. Last Tuesday the Overview & Scrutiny Panel members also agreed by upholding the call in.

This must tell the cabinet that there are grave concerns within this authority regarding their decision of 21<sup>st</sup> July.

Since last week I have done further research and now understand why the rest of the councillors feel this way and feel even more justified in the statement I made.

I have reviewed all the cabinet minutes & agendas since 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008. At the meeting in May 2008 the proposals & recommendations were clear. The council had been left with no alternative, as the governing bodies of St Marks & Oldfield had failed to work together to bring about a merger of the two schools then both school would be closed & one new co-educational school would be opened. Culverhay was to be closed and a new co-educational school was to be opened on the existing site. Many councillors & cabinet members spoke in support of these recommendations. Cllr Watt said the proposals were clear and that only one secondary school was required in the north of the city. Cllr Hanney reminded the meeting that substantial consultation had already been undertaken and that there had been two over view & scrutiny reviews which had fed into the proposals. Cllr Charles Gerrish agreed with Cllr Crossley that a co-educational school on the Culverhay site would serve the community well. There is no mention of secondary schools in the cabinet minutes then until 3rd March 2010 when in a 'single member cabinet decision' Chris Watt puts forward 'Variations of the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008 cabinet decision regarding consultation on secondary school reorganisation proposals for Bath' but this still clearly places a new co-educational school on the Culverhay site. What has changed since Feb except the acceleration of the academy's bill & the announcement that the two faith schools wish to federate? But this is still a proposal only.

The city has not changed, the needs of its young people or its communities has not changed.

The research was thorough & decisive, the proposals & recommendations were precise, which is why the consultation wording was so clear.

The wording on page 15 of the consultation document is also very clear. It states that the cabinet has 3 options and the third one is to consider any new option(s) that may have emerged as a result of the consultation.

However, it is clear that what the cabinet approved on 21<sup>st</sup> July did not emerge from the consultation, what emerged from the consultation is that the people of this city want a co-educational school on the Culverhay site.

A lot of hard work and public money went into producing the secondary school review and until very recently the cabinet backed its proposals & recommendations wholehearted. Now suddenly they had done a complete u-turn. This is totally unacceptable when the majority of people who responded to the consultation agreed with the consultation's overall plan/strategy.

I just can't understand how they can justify their decision of 21<sup>st</sup> July.