

CALL IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION NUMBER E2233

We the undersigned wish to support the call in of the decision E2233 'Determination of the Statutory Notice to close Culverhay School' taken by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services on 23rd February 2011.

The grounds for the call in are as follows:

The decision to close Culverhay School is not a reasonable decision to make based on the consultation because:

1. The single closure option is not a reasonable consultation from the original consultation;
2. The overall strategy of reduction of surplus places is flawed since there is a reasonable number of surplus places for the city;
3. It did not allow enough time for the school and community to fully develop alternative proposals and the preliminary proposals from the community, which were based around a coeducational status for Culverhay, were not given adequate consideration by the Cabinet member;
4. There is a local parental demand for coeducational secondary school places on the Culverhay site which could reduce the "large number of surplus places" at Culverhay, this has not been sufficiently taken into account;
5. The views of the community have not been regarded and the final decision has been taken in private as a single member decision, undermining transparency and local accountability;
6. It increases unfairly the burden of getting to school for families in the Culverhay area:
 - a. The rationale that the "community is relatively close to alternative schools" is false as the 'successor school' is 50 minutes walk away and is poorly served by public transport connections;
 - b. Culverhay is sited in the most economically disadvantaged part of the city where parents may not have private cars or may struggle to afford transport by private car or public transport (where it exists);
 - c. It may conflict with the Council's carbon reduction strategy if more requirement for private car transport is created in contrast to the current situation where the vast majority of pupils are able to walk to school which has additional health and wellbeing benefits;
7. It fails to recognize the advantage that the boys with emotional and behavioural difficulties in particular get from the school;
8. A full equalities impact assessment of the decision has not been carried out;

9. The decision making process has attributed weight to the educational standards of the school (which are said to be “low compared to the rest of the authority”), but has not attributed equal weight to the OFSTED rating of the school (which looks at teaching, behaviour and pastoral care as well as test results), which is “good”;

Signed by:

1. Dine Romero (Lead Call-in Councillor)
2. Nigel Roberts
3. Paul Crossley
4. Caroline Roberts
5. Simon Allen
6. Steve Hedges
7. Will Sandry
8. Nicholas Coombes
9. Tim Ball
10. Cherry Beath
11. Marian McNeir
12. Nathan Hartley
13. Roger Symonds
14. Rob Appleyard
15. Eleanor Jackson
16. Adrian Inker
17. David Speirs
18. Lorraine Brinkhurst