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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Friday 8 May 2009

Present: Councillor Khan (in the Chair)
Councillors Marchington, Pandor, Sheard, K Smith, Smithson and Stanfield

Observers: Councillors Dodds, Hall, Smaje and B Smith

536 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Molly Walton and Kath Pinnock.

537 Interests

Councillor Shabir Pandor declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Items 7 and 8 due to him having children in the Kirklees Secondary Education System.

Councillor Marchington declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Items 7 and 8 due to him having a friend working as a teacher at a school in the Building Schools for the Future consultation process.

Councillor Liz Smaje, who was present at the meeting, declared a prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 8, due to her being a Governor at Birkenshaw First and Nursery School and left the meeting during consideration of the item, having asked a public question at Agenda Item 5.

538 Admission of the Public

All items considered at the meeting were in public session.

539 Deputations/Petitions

Cabinet received the following deputations:

- Joseph Pugsley regarding the proposal to close St. Luke's School in Cleckheaton.
- Sarah Sowden regarding the transitional arrangements for children within the Whitcliffe Mount Pyramid.

- Abdulla Bham in support of the proposals for Secondary Education in the Batley Area and with a request for a review of the admission criteria in the Batley Area to include Soothill School and for the provision of Single Sex Sixth Form Education in North Kirklees.

Councillors John Smithson and Ken Smith, Cabinet Members for Children and Families responded to the deputations.

540 Public Question Time

Councillor Liz Smaje asked a question in her capacity as a member of the public regarding consultations that are currently taking place about the Birkenshaw Middle School and associated potential uses for the site.

Hassan Badat asked a question about the Batley Consultation Exercise and the need for consideration to be given to Single Sex provision at Sixth Form level.

Councillors John Smithson and Ken Smith responded to the questions.

541 Member Question Time

Councillor Dodds asked a question about the continuation of All Party Building Schools to other future meetings to give consideration to the outcome of consultations currently taking place.

Councillors John Smithson responded thereto.

542 Report on the Revised Proposals for Secondary Schools in Batley

Cabinet considered a report presenting proposals for the current Secondary Schools in Batley in light of the key messages from the consultation which had taken place between 6 September and 14 November 2008 seeking approval for the proposed next steps and timescales to make changes to Secondary Schools in Batley for the Kirklees Building Schools for the Future Programme. The considered report provided information on the key messages that had been brought out during the consultation exercise and set out revised proposals for the Batley Field Hill site.

Members of the public present at the meeting had an opportunity to put their views forward in respect of the proposals within the report and the Cabinet Members for Children and Families outlined the factors that had been considered in making the recommendation as contained within the report.

RESOLVED -

1) That the revised proposals to develop two single-gender schools for boys and girls on the Batley Field Hill site for 1350 pupils in total be approved and implemented, as set out below:-

- a) Closing the Sixth Form at Batley Girls' High School
- b) Reducing the size of Batley Girls' High School to 675 places for girls aged 11 - 16 and re-locating the school to the Field Hill site to share specialist facilities and resources with Batley Business and Enterprise College.
- c) Reducing the size of Batley Business and Enterprise College to 675 places for boys aged 11 - 16 to share specialist facilities and resources with Batley Girls' High School on the Field Hill site.
- d) Exploring a possible federation between two schools and collaborative arrangements with other provision in the locality.
- e) Exploring the possibilities of creating opportunities for outreach support in Batley from the new Dewsbury Sixth Form College to supplement the main college offer.

2) That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Portfolio leads and the Director for Children and Young People to:-

- a) Develop further consultation materials on the basis of the revised proposal for the Batley Field site.
- b) Organise and carry out statutory consultation on the revised proposals commencing 1 June 2009 and following the schedule set out on page 8 of the considered report.
- c) Report the outcome of the consultation to cabinet by September 2009 for future consideration of the next steps.

543 Proposals for the Whitcliffe Mount Pyramid First Schools as Part of the Schools for the Future Programme in North Kirklees

Cabinet considered a report presenting revised proposals for the Whitcliffe Mount Pyramid First Schools in North Kirklees in light of the key messages from the consultation which had taken place between 16 September and 14 November 2008. The considered report provided information on the messages that had been highlighted during the consultation process and went on to set out proposed next steps and timescales to make changes to the Whitcliffe Mount Pyramid First Schools through the Primary Schools for the Future Programme.

Members of the public present at the meeting had an opportunity to make comments in relation to the proposals as contained within the considered report and the Cabinet Portfolio holders for Children and Families explained the factors that had been considered in relation to the recommendations they had made within the considered report.

RESOLVED -

1) That the proposals set out below and in the considered report for the Whitcliffe Mount Pyramid First Schools be approved and implemented:-

- a) Carry out a 4-week, non-statutory consultation over a range of options to confirm the best primary provision in the Birkenshaw area, considering all available sites and collecting evidence for a possible application for an exemption from competition if a new school is proposed.
- b) Proceed to Statutory Proposal and Notice at Gomersal St Mary's CE (A) F&N School linked to the Governing Body's Statutory Proposal to raise the upper age limit from 9 - 11 years.
- c) Proceed to Statutory Proposals and Notices at Gomersal First, Howard Park F&N and Scholes F&N Schools.
- d) Carry out a 4-week, non-statutory consultation over a range of options to confirm the preferred governance arrangements for the one class entry school.
- e) Carry out a 4-week, non-statutory consultation over a range of options to confirm the best location for the proposed primary provision in the Hightown area.

2) That Officers be authorised to develop implementation proposals and plans for the proposals approved by Cabinet and that authority be delegated to the Cabinet Portfolio leads and the Director for Children and Young People to:-

- a) Develop further consultation materials on the basis of the revised proposals for the Whitcliffe Mount Pyramid First Schools by Cabinet, where the proposals differ significantly from those set out in the "Brighter Futures" materials.
- b) Organise and carry out statutory consultation and publish statutory notices on the proposals approved following the schedule set out in Table 6 on page 14 of the considered report.
- c) Report the outcomes of the consultation to Cabinet by September 2009 for further consideration of the next steps.