



Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 3 November 2009
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Council Chamber, Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

CALL-IN OF CABINET MINUTE 143 (1/10/09) - REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES PHASE 1

Cabinet minute 143 has been called in by Councillors Jeff Green, Les Rowlands, Simon Mountney, John Hale and Lesley Rennie on the following grounds:

“The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the Leader of the Conservative Group’s comments of opposition to the closure of Ridgeway High School, Wirral Globe 12th March 2009, when the decision to proceed with the two Academy (one co-educational and one boys only) solution was announced by the Labour/Liberal Democrat Administration.

Committee is asked to reaffirm its commitment to the principle of Academies and recognise those individuals and organisations that are seeking to raise the educational attainment of some of the most disadvantaged young people with their particular knowledge, time, insight and funds.

The Committee is however, asked to note the contents of the outstanding OFSTED report achieved by Ridgeway High and the exceptional achievements of children attending the school (this year is set to score 47% A-C GCSE results (including English & Maths), making it the second best community school in Wirral) and giving it one of the highest ‘value added’ scores in the country.

The Committee is asked to share our view that raising the educational attainments of all Wirral children must be a key priority for Wirral Council and that schools which achieve this most precious objective should be nurtured, supported and celebrated not punished and threatened with closure.

Committee, acknowledging as it must, that Ridgeway High School provides an outstanding education to the children of the area both in terms of results achieved and the value it adds is a school deserving of the Council's support and is asked to agree with us that the decision to consult on the closure of Ridgeway High and to replace it with a single sex boys Academy on the Borough Road site is wrong and to ask the Labour/Liberal Democrat Administration to show some more 'decisive leadership' and reverse its decision to close Ridgeway High School."

The relevant Cabinet minute and report are attached.

CALL-IN PROCEDURE

1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP

Members are asked to consider whether they have a personal or prejudicial interest in connection with the item on this agenda and, if so, to declare it and state what it is.

Members are reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they are subject to a party whip in connection with the item to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

3. EXPLANATION OF THE CALL-IN BY LEAD SIGNATORY

4. EVIDENCE FROM CALL-IN WITNESSES

5. EVIDENCE FROM CABINET MEMBER'S WITNESSES

6. SUMMING UP BY MOVER OF THE CALL-IN

7. SUMMING UP BY CABINET MEMBER

8. COMMITTEE DEBATE

9. COMMITTEE DECISION