

CABINET

Wednesday, 9 December 2009

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	S Foulkes (Chair)	Finance & Best Value
	Councillors	S Holbrook G Davies P Davies G Gardiner S Kelly M McLaughlin R Moon J Quinn	Corporate Resources Housing & Community Safety Children's Services & Lifelong Learning Environment Community & Customer Engagement Social Care & Inclusion Tourism & Leisure Streetscene & Transport Services
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	J Stapleton	Regeneration & Planning Strategy

219 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor P Davies declared a personal interest in agenda item 14 (minute No 221/2009 refers) review of Secondary School Places Phase 1 – site for a possible Academy by virtue of him being a Governor of Wirral Metropolitan College.

Councillor G Davies declared a prejudicial interest in the same item by virtue of him being a Governor of one of the schools referred to in the report. He left the meeting whilst this item of business was under discussion.

220 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet on 26 November 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

221 REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES PHASE 1 - SITE FOR A POSSIBLE ACADEMY

Following the Cabinet's decision on 26 November 2009 (Minute No 192/2009 refers) to revert to an earlier option for secondary school reorganisation in Birkenhead, a report by the Director of Children's Services advised of a result of consultations with various stakeholders on the possibility of a new Academy being constructed on the Park High site of the Shaftsbury/borough Road playing field site, provided a likely timetable for the Academy process and updated on developments in relation to the Sponsor team for the Mixed Academy.

The Director was in attendance at the meeting and took Members through the detail of his report answering their questions as appropriate.

Councillor P Davies paid tribute to Park High and Rock Ferry High Schools, in particular, the contributions of their pupils, staff and Governors had made resulting in the excellent standards both schools had achieved.

It was noted that the Cabinet had waived the Call-in in respect of this matter when it was discussed on 26 November but had made it clear, at the time, that it would not be waiving it again in respect of the decision to be made at this meeting.

Councillor P Davies moved the following motion:

“Cabinet agrees to:

- (1) the inclusion of the Park High site and the Shaftsbury / Borough Road playing field site as potential sites for the Mixed Academy in the Expression of Interest, subject to a Statement on Intent being issued by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Full public consultation with residents and businesses should take place on the Shaftsbury / Borough Road site and a final decision on the preferred site to be taken by the Cabinet in January 2010;
- (2) the inclusion of Birkenhead Sixth Form College and the University of Liverpool within the Mixed Academy Sponsor team, for inclusion in the Statement of Intent and Expression of Interest to be sent to the Minister;
- (3) the Director of Children’s Services to have urgent discussions with the sponsor team with a view to confirming the leader sponsor for the Mixed Academy; and
- (4) and pays tribute to the excellent contribution made by the Staff, pupils and Governors of Park High and Rock Ferry high Schools to education in Birkenhead.”

The following **AMENDMENT** was moved by Councillor S Holbrook

“Cabinet agrees to:

- (1) the current Park High site as the preferred location for the mixed academy to replace Rock Ferry HS and Park HS. This should be included in the Statement of Intent and the Expression of Interest to be sent to the Minister.
- (2) to (4) as above.

The amendment was put to the vote and declared carried as 4 Members voted for the amendment and 3 voted against it.

The amendment then became the Substantive Motion and was put to the vote and declared carried as 7 Members voted for it and no Members voted against it.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet agrees to:

- (1) the current Park High site as the preferred location for the mixed academy to replace Rock Ferry HS and Park HS. This should be included in the Statement of Intent and the Expression of Interest to be sent to the Minister.**

(2) the inclusion of Birkenhead Sixth Form College and the University of Liverpool within the Mixed Academy Sponsor team, for inclusion in the Statement of Intent and Expression of Interest to be sent to the Minister;

(3) the Director of Children's Services to have urgent discussions with the sponsor team with a view to confirming the leader sponsor for the Mixed Academy;

(4) and pays tribute to the excellent contribution made by the Staff, pupils and Governors of Park High and Rock Ferry high Schools to education in Birkenhead."

222 GOVERNANCE REVIEW - PROPOSED GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

A report by the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management reported that the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("the Act") required the Council to review its governance arrangements and move to either:

- a new style 'Leader and Cabinet' model; or
- a 'directly elected Mayor and Cabinet' model.

Before drawing up its governance proposals, the Council was required to take reasonable steps to consult local government electors and any other interested persons, in the authority's area. The Council's consultation period commenced on 6 October 2009 and ended on 30 November 2009 and the steps taken to consult local government electors and interested parties included:

- a press release was placed in a local newspaper (Wirral Globe) on 8 October 2009 (although the press release was issued on 7 October 2009);
- the Council's Website was amended to advertise the new governance arrangements and to invite local electors and other interested persons to make comments and express their views/opinions on the proposals;
- the Cabinet report dated 24 September 2009 detailing the proposed governance arrangements as highlighted at all eleven Area Forum meetings by the Chairperson and copies of the report made available to the public.

Furthermore, both the Daily Post and Wirral News featured a discussion forum on the proposed governance arrangements; and Heart FM Radio, Severn Waves Radio and BBC Radio Merseyside all featured the proposed governance proposals. The Wirral Globe further published letters received in relation to the governance proposals on 29 October, 5, 11 and 18 November 2009.