

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEMBER SIGNING  
THURSDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2012**

Councillor Ann Waters

Also Present: Libby Blake, Jennifer Duxbury, Bhikhu Samat, Ayshe Simsek, Clifford Hart

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTON BY
TEX40.	<p><b>URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no items of urgent business put forward.</p>	
TEX41.	<p><b>THE JOHN LOUGHBOROUGH SCHOOL - OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS ON THE FUTURE OF THE SCHOOL AND RECOMMENDATION ON THE NEXT STEPS</b></p> <p>Before considering the report the Director of Children’s services gave her apologies for including a letter in the report pack from the Department for Education personally addressed to Schools Company Limited regarding the Academy Sponsorship proposal outcome for John Loughborough School . The Children’s Service should not have included this letter as they were not the main recipient of this information and the error was regrettable. The letter had now been removed from the report pack, published on the council’s website.</p> <p>The meeting was provided with some background information about the John Loughborough School. It was a small voluntary aided church secondary school with capacity for 300 pupils and operated by the South England Conference of Seventh –Day Adventists but maintained by the local authority. A review of the school’s financial and educational viability had been initiated in April 2012 because a number of agencies had provided support to improve standards without considerable impact and continued OFSTED inspections also showed no improvement. The council had worked with Seventh day Adventists Church in the review to examine a range of options for its future and the review had concluded that only two options were open: one was for the Seventh Day Adventist Church to pursue establishing the school as an academy and the council to consult on the closure of the school. Both these options were pursued in parallel to avoid delay in finding the best solution for current and future pupils at the school.</p> <p>The Cabinet had in September agreed to commence consultation on the closure of the school whilst a potential sponsor for the school was sought. The Cabinet were clear that they would halt the consultation on the closure if a sponsor was found to support the school as an academy and this still remained the case.</p> <p>Following the decision by Cabinet in September, this report set out the responses to the consultation. It was noted that 80% of respondents</p>	

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were opposed to the closure of the school. However the council were required to weigh this against factors such as the school's current education standards, past GCSE results, past support provided to improve standards and the current position on finding a sponsor for the school. Therefore, the report recommended that the council now publishes a statutory notice to close the school across all year groups with effect from September 2013.

Before making this decision, the Cabinet Member for Children highlighted some responses in the consultation which contended that the school was financially viable and that African and Caribbean Children did well at the school .It was confirmed that the financial viability of the school had been examined, in the review, and this had concluded that the school could not continue without subsidy. The report further contained exam data which showed that African and Caribbean children do not do better at the John Loughborough School than overall African and Caribbean students in Haringey schools.

The Cabinet Member for Children having considered the information in the report and responses to questions :

**RESOLVED**

- i. That the Council publishes a statutory notice to close the school across all year groups with effect from the September 2013 year 7 entry. This recommendation was made because:
  - The education being delivered at the school has not been good enough over a long period. This is reflected by the school being in an Ofsted category of concern since February 2007. The most recent Ofsted inspection in December 2011 placed the school in 'special measures' for the second time because in view of the inspectors... 'it is failing to give its students an acceptable standard of education and the persons responsible for leading , managing or governing the school are not demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement '.
  - The one counter proposal , put forward by Schools Company Ltd , to allow the school to become a sponsored academy has been rejected by the DFE who have now acknowledged that, despite extensive work, they too have been unable to identify a sponsor who they believed had the required capacity , track record and experience to make John Loughborough a success working in partnership with SEC.
  - Despite targeted support over the last ten years , no sustained or significant improvements have been made to the standard of education in the school;
  - The GCSE results continue to be significantly below borough and national averages ad the government's floor standards.

Dir CS

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	<p>ii. The pupils currently on roll at John Loughborough would be transferred to other local schools from September 2013. This closing arrangement for the John Loughborough School was consulted on as option 2 during the consultation process. Therefore the statutory notice will be published on 07<sup>th</sup> January 2013 after which a statutory six week period of representations will follow. (This six week period is fixed and the council cannot extend or shorten it) Further analysis of why this option had been chosen was outlined in paragraph 5 of the main report.</p>	Dir CS
<b>TEX42.</b>	<b>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</b>  No new items of business were put forward.	

Cllr Ann Waters

Chair