



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY, 12 MAY 2005 at 4.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Johnson - Chair
Councillor Fitch - Liberal Democrat Spokesperson
Councillor Sood – Labour Spokesperson

Councillor Farmer	Councillor Nurse
Councillor Henry	Councillor Panchbaya
Councillor Hunt	Councillor Porter
Councillor Lloyd-Harris	Councillor Thompson
Councillor Andrew Vincent	

Co-opted Members (Voting)

Ms Kimberley Bennett - Parent Governor (Primary /Special Needs)

Co-opted Members (Non-Voting)

Mr Nic Gavin	- Primary Sector
Ms Jane Rolfe	- Primary Sector
Mr Peter Flack	- Secondary Sector

In Attendance

Councillor Waddington – Cabinet member for Education & Lifelong Learning

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96. NEW PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR BRAUNSTONE

The Corporate Director, Education and Lifelong Learning submitted a report which set out revised proposals for the project, accommodation requirements and costs; together with a proposal to change one school location from the original site at Bendbow Rise Infant school site to the Crescent Junior School site. It was stated that these developments were considered necessary as the scheme had seen projected costs rise since funds were initially bid for and there had been changes following consultation. A number of options to reduce costs had been considered but it was felt that it was important to prioritise this area of the City and to deliver a high quality facility. It was also expected that keeping to the sustainability guidelines would ensure reduced revenue costs. Use as children's centres had not been

included at this stage but could be accommodated at the Bendbow site if funding was forthcoming.

Members expressed support for the proposal to not compromise on the schools but raised issues concerning increased costs and playing fields. In response it was acknowledged in hindsight that additional preparation work had been needed but it was noted that the bid had created against a backdrop of other pressures, particularly the Council's BSF bid, and that it had been the first new school by the authority. Members were assured that lessons had been learned which would be taken into account in future developments. The project would be managed according to Council project management guidelines and a construction project manager based in the Resources, Access and Diversity Department had been appointed. In relation to playing fields it was noted that there was a playing field adjacent to the Bendbow site while the Queensmead site was close to a leisure centre.

In response to a query concerning whether additional funding was available to meet the shortfall it was stated that the Leader of the Council had written to the Minister and that it appeared that no specific further funds could be released for this project, however extended schools funding may be available for the proposed Taylor Primary school rebuilding. A meeting between the Leader, Cabinet Link and Schools Minister had been arranged.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the proposals supported.