

Time commenced - 6.00pm  
Time finished - 7.40pm

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION**  
**24 OCTOBER 2007**

**Present:** Councillor Poulter (In the Chair)  
Councillors Bayliss, Dhamrait, Ginns, Higginbottom and Rawson.

**Co-opted Members:** Keerthi Devendra – Parent Governor  
Kirit Mistry – Other Faiths Representative

**33/07 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen and Willoughby, Alison Brown, John Honey, Nasreen Iqbal and Dave Wilkinson.

**34/07 Late Items**

There were no late items.

**35/07 Declarations of Interest**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of interest</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Councillor Bayliss	Personal	His daughters attend Derby College and Noel-Baker Community School
Councillor Dhamrait	Personal	Governor – Sinfin Community School Councillor for Sinfin Ward
Councillor Higginbottom	Personal	Employed by Derby College
Councillor Rawson	Personal	Governor – da Vinci Community College

**36/07 Building Schools for the Future – Choice and Diversity**

The Commission considered a report of the Council Cabinet on 2 October 2007 and a report due to go to Council Cabinet on 30 October 2007 on the proposed Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Strategy for Change. The report of 2 October stated that there is a clear expectation from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) that increased ‘choice

and diversity' will be incorporated into local authorities' 'Strategies for Change' to ensure the approval of their BSF plans.

The Government's policy on 'Choice and Diversity' includes the options of greater self-governance (foundation status), academies, trusts, federations, mergers and the expansion of popular schools. Academies are all ability schools, independent of the local authority. Each academy has one or more sponsors, contributing £2m in total to a long term endowment to help meet the educational needs of their students. Derby College's Corporation has decided in principle that it wishes to sponsor one academy, and possibly two, in the city.

The 30 October Council Cabinet report proposed Bemrose Community School and Sinfin Community School for academy status, subject to the progress of an expression of interest with the DCSF and the details of the planning work.

The Commission had invited secondary heads, chairs of governors plus teaching and non-teaching trade unions to submit written comments on the issues.

Submissions by the following stakeholders were produced before the specific proposals were publicly known:

- Derby NASUWT
- TUC Midlands Regional Council Resolution - 13 October 2007
- DCC education trade unions' position statement on Academies
- DCC trade unions' position statement on Academies
- Sinfin School NASUWT Branch Position Statement on Academies
- da Vinci College NASUWT Branch Position Statement on Academies
- Landau Forte – Submission from Principal and Chair of Governors
- Noel-Baker – Submission from the Head, Paul Davies

Submissions by the following stakeholders were produced after the specific proposals became publicly known:

- Chair of Governors Sinfin School – letter to parents
- Derby College – Chair and Principal

A summary of the views submitted was presented at the meeting by the Chair.

Andrew Flack, Corporate Director for Children and Young People, attended the meeting to present the report going to Council Cabinet on 30 October. He introduced the drivers for these proposals, the full range of what 'Choice and Diversity' provision includes and addressed some of the issues raised in the written submissions made to the Commission.

He then responded to a number of questions and concerns raised by Members of the Commission, including:

- Staffing and management
- Any future sale of an academy's land
- The threshold of attainment identified by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) as a way to identify potential academy candidates, particularly in the case of Sinfin Community School following the fire there
- Having a sponsor imposed on a school if the Derby College bid is not concluded
- Appropriate and far reaching consultation

Ian Jennison, NUT representative attended the meeting to present his members concerns to the Commission and also responded to Members' questions.

**Resolved to recommend Council Cabinet record that the Children and Young People Commission support the proposals as the pragmatic means to unlock £150m of capital investment provided full account is taken of the concerns in the subsequent recommendations.**

- 1. Legally binding protection of the capital value of the transferred land, buildings and other assets can be achieved, through the Funding Agreement (or other means), so as to preclude the Sponsor (or any successor to the Sponsor) being able to 'asset strip' and for this to apply whether or not the facilities continue as an educational institution.**
- 2. There be the fullest consultation with all the stakeholders, including the trade unions, whereby Derby College addresses the range of issues and seeks to reassure all those affected that the adoption of Academy status will be beneficial for pupils, parents and staff.**
- 3. An early Equalities Impact Assessment be undertaken with the outcome influencing the Feasibility Study and/or Funding Agreement.**
- 4. This Commission be informed of key developments and any significant alteration to the proposals as they currently stand, to enable the opportunity for further scrutiny.**

MINUTES END