



Bemrose Community School – Redesignation to 11-18 Status

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the publication of a statutory notice under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 for formally adding post-16 provision at Bemrose Community School.
- 1.2 Since 1999 Bemrose Community School has offered a post-16 learning programme to students who were considered unlikely to continue education elsewhere. This arrangement was able to operate as it was supported by Littleover Community School, whose own 11-18 status facilitated Bemrose to provide post-16 education. Due to new regulations it is necessary to designate Bemrose as an 11-18 school with a 45 place sixth form, in order for existing provision to continue there.
- 1.3 A consultation paper on this proposal was circulated to all key stakeholders. A copy of this paper is attached as Appendix 2. The deadline for consultation comments is Thursday, 31 May 2007, and any responses received will be tabled at the meeting.
- 1.4 The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who are responsible for post-16 place planning and funding have already given their full support to this proposal.
- 1.5 Subject to any issues raised at the meeting I support the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the publication of a statutory notice for the re-designation of Bemrose as an 11-18 school, with 45 post-16 places.
- 2.2 To approve delegation of authority to determine the statutory proposal to the Corporate Director for Children and Young People, subject to no objections being received.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The planned re-designation of Bemrose Community School to 11-18 status has been subject to a consultation which is open for three weeks. It is now necessary to consider publication of a statutory notice in order for the proposal to progress.
- 3.2 This development seeks to ensure that post-16 provision at Bemrose Community School can continue in accordance with new regulations.



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
5th June 2007

ITEM XX

Report of the Corporate Director for Children
and Young People

Bemrose Community School – Redesignation to 11-18 Status

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 In 1999, Bemrose established a post-16 learning programme for a number of students who were unlikely to continue education or training anywhere else but at Bemrose. The students have been registered at Littleover Community School in order for post-16 funding to be accessed from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Historically, funding has then been transferred from Littleover to Bemrose in order to fund educational provision.
- 4.2 This arrangement has been very successful, but recent changes in regulations mean that it can no longer continue in its current form. In order to sustain the provision for this group of students at Bemrose, the redesignation of the school to 11-18 status is the only option. A range of stakeholders have been consulted on the proposed change and the full consultation paper is attached at Appendix 2.
- 4.3 The consultation will be open for 3 weeks, in line with DfES guidance for a proposal of this nature, and will close on Thursday, 31 May 2007. Responses to the consultation will be tabled at the Council Cabinet meeting.
- 4.4 Following the end of this initial consultation period, there is a legal requirement to publish a statutory notice. Subject to Cabinet approval, this statutory notice will be published on 15 June 2007. The statutory consultation period will run for one month.
- 4.5 If no formal objections are received, this report seeks delegated authority for the Corporate Director for Children and Young People to agree this proposal. Should objections be received, a further report will be presented to Council Cabinet for a later decision.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 To cease provision, which has been rejected due to the negative impact on learners and their future life chances.
- 5.2 To relocate the provision to existing post-16 provision but it is unlikely that learners will access provision at an alternative venue.

For more information contact: Mick Seller, Assistant Director Children and Young People, email:
Background papers: mick.seller@derby.gov.uk
List of appendices:

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The redesignation to 11-18 status would secure the current funding arrangements. The current LSC contribution is £166,000 per annum, at a rate of approximately £4,150 per student.
- 1.2 The school has demonstrated that the current arrangement is financially viable, and does not represent a drain on the 11-16 resource base. It will be crucial for the long term success of this arrangement for the post-16 provision to be contained within the available LSC funding.

Legal

- 2.1 A statutory notice will be required for this proposal under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Personnel

- 3.1 As the redesignation to 11-18 status would secure the current LSC funding, this in turn would allow the existing staffing establishment to be maintained and so avoid job losses. The staffing of the school is the responsibility of the governing body.
- 3.2 Any significant extension of the educational offer at Bemrose is likely to have impact on other post 16 providers within the city, and lead to surplus places with inevitable implications for staffing, subject to future developments and agreed strategies. Bemrose has agreed to limit the provision offered to the current levels (up to 45 students) in order to avoid this scenario.

Equalities impact

4. Post-16 provision was originally established at Bemrose Community School when it was recognised that, for cultural reasons, the particular student group was unlikely to continue into post-16 education at any alternative venue. The proposal to formally add a sixth form to Bemrose Community School will allow for this provision to continue.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 The proposal furthers the Corporate Plan priority of supporting everyone in learning and achieving, focusing on the outcome of providing learning opportunities to raise skills levels for all.



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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Genuine diversity and choice in educational provision in the 14-19 age range is crucial for ensuring that young people in Derby have the best possible start in life. The City's 14-19 Partnership has been established to bring all schools, Derby College, Connexions, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the Local Authority (LA) together in a single vision. Its aim is to create a unified approach to providing young people with an accessible curriculum which accords with their needs and circumstances.
- 1.2 All schools in Derby are committed to tailoring the curriculum they offer to this end, and Bemrose Community School is no exception. For many young people in the city, the right choices in the right place supported by the best guidance makes the difference between success and failure. Success is transition into relevant learning, training and employment, while failure is not to gain access to any of these after the age of 16 and become NEET, (Not in Education, Employment or Training.)
- 1.3 In 1999, Bemrose established a post-16 learning programme for a number of students who were unlikely to continue in education or training anywhere else but at Bemrose. The programme was supported by Littleover Community School whose 11-18 status gave the wing under which the Bemrose post-16 programme could operate. This arrangement has been very successful, but recent changes in regulations mean that it can no longer continue in its current form. Therefore, Bemrose needs to formally add a sixth form and be designated as an 11-18 school in its own right.
- 1.4 The current sixth form provides pathways from a pre-16 curriculum which includes vocational courses delivered in partnership with local schools. In their most recent OFSTED visit, inspectors said, "There are few post-16 students, but their results from advanced vocational courses are consistently good, and ahead of the trend in national standards. Teaching, learning and support are good.... Students are well supported and many, who would not otherwise have aspired to continue their education after age 16, are doing so very successfully. The large majority complete their courses. Most gain places in higher education."

- 1.5 This consultation document sets out the case for formally adding a sixth form to Bemrose and invites views from stakeholders. Subject to the result of the consultation, the next stages of redesignation will be the publication of a statutory notice followed by formal redesignation in September 2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Flack". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

**Andrew Flack,
Corporate Director for Children and Young People
Derby City Council**

2. Summary and Background Information

- 2.1 Bemrose Community School is currently designated to provide education for students in the 11-16 age range. It is proposed to redesignate Bemrose as an 11-18 school, for the purpose of securing provision that has previously been made through an informal arrangement with Littleover Community School.
- 2.2 The proposal is supported by the City's 14-19 Partnership and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC.)

3. Supporting information

- 3.1 Since September 1999, Bemrose Community School has been providing education to a group of up to 45 students in the 16 to 18 age range. The courses offered currently are Vocational courses in Business, Health and Social Care and Information Communication Technology (ICT) together with academic courses in Sociology, English and Mathematics. During this period 85% of the students have gained qualifications in the following areas;

GCSE,

- Applied Business
- Health & Social Care
- English
- Maths
- ICT

AS and A2 level,

- Applied Business
- Health & Social Care
- Applied ICT
- Sociology.

- 3.2 Furthermore, analysis of the performance data indicates that value added from GCSE starting points has been good.
- 3.3 The courses were originally established when it was recognised that, for cultural reasons, the particular student group was unlikely to continue into post 16 at any alternative venue. This has been an effective arrangement with successful outcomes for the students involved, 60% of whom have gone on to further or higher education.
- 3.4 The students have previously been registered by Littleover Community School in order to access post 16 funding from the LSC. The funding has then been transferred to Bemrose in order to fund educational provision. Recently the DfES have scrutinised this arrangement and declared it illegal as Bemrose is designated as an 11-16 school and is not registered to provide education post 16.
- 3.5 In order to sustain the provision for this group at Bemrose, the redesignation of the school to 11-18 status is vital.

4.0 Management and governance arrangements

- 4.1 The school sixth form would be managed and governed within the school's existing arrangements.

5.0 Financial information

- 5.1 The redesignation to 11-18 status would secure the current funding arrangements. The current LSC contribution is £166,000 per annum, at a rate of approximately £4150 per student.
- 5.2 The school has demonstrated that the current arrangement is financially viable, and does not represent a drain on the 11-16 resource base. It will be crucial for the long term success of this arrangement for the post 16 provision to be contained within the available LSC funding.

6.0 Staffing implications

- 6.1 As the redesignation to 11-18 status would secure the current LSC funding this in turn would allow the existing staffing establishment to be maintained and so avoid job losses.
- 6.2 Any significant extension of the educational offer at Bemrose is likely to have impact on other post 16 providers within the city, and lead to surplus places with inevitable implications on staffing. Bemrose has agreed to limit the provision offered to the levels described above in order to avoid this scenario.

7.0 Contact information

- 7.1 We are very interested in your views and welcome your comments. Please respond to us by using the response sheet attached to this paper.
- 7.2 Should you wish to discuss any specific aspects of this proposal, please contact:

Mick Seller, Assistant Director, Learning Division, Children and Young People's Department. Tel. 01332 716853. E-mail: mick.seller@derby.gov.uk

8.0 Timescale / Next steps

- 8.1 The proposed three-week consultation period for responses will end on Thursday 31 May. The outcome of this consultation will be reported to Council Cabinet for consideration and decision to progress to the next stage. A formal public notice will be published with a further one-month statutory consultation period as required under the legislation.

Bemrose Community School – Addition of a Sixth Form - Consultation Response Form

We are very interested in your comments on this proposal. Please use this response sheet to let us have your views. (Please use continuation sheet if you wish).

Signed.....

Date.....

Status.....

(e.g. parent, governor, school, agency, other)

Completed forms to be returned to: Lynne Hoptroff, Children and Young People's Department, Middleton House, 27 St Mary's Gate, Derby DE1 1NN E-mail: lynne.hoptroff@derby.gov.uk

Consultation closing date: Thursday, 31 May 2007