

Time started	16:33
Time ended	16:41

Education and Skills Cabinet Member Meeting 24 May 2017

Present: Councillor Russell

In Attendance: Gurmail Nizzer (Acting Director of Commissioning and Head of School Organisation and Provision), Clare Harrison (Democratic Services Manager)

01/17 Apologies

There were no apologies.

02/17 Late Items

There were no late items.

03/17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/17 Academy Commercial Transfer Agreements (CTAs)

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills considered a report of the Report of the Strategic Director for People Services to approve the Council signing four CTAs for Breadsall Hill Top Primary School; Derwent Primary School; Osmaston Primary School; and Pear Tree Junior School.

The Acting Director of Commissioning and Head of School Organisation and Provision reported that the Education and Adoptions Act 2016 amended the Academies Act 2016 and inserted a duty on Local Authorities to take all reasonable steps to facilitate a conversion for a school to become an academy once an academy order has been issued. It was further reported that most Local Authorities sign CTAs and in view of the new duty on Local Authorities to facilitate conversions, it has been agreed that the Council will sign CTAs based on the Department for Education's (DfE) standard form template.

The Cabinet Member stated that she was pleased to see a reiteration of the Council's position in 2012 of not supporting the conversion of maintained schools to academy status and that the Council does not favour this. However, the Cabinet Member agreed that, in line with the Academies Act 2016 legislation, the Council could find itself in difficulties if it continued to refuse to sign the CTAs and therefore impede the conversion of schools to

academies. In this vain the Cabinet Member agreed to accept the recommendation to agree to the signing of CTAs for all four schools.

It was resolved to approve the signing of CTS for the following schools:

- **Breadsall Hill Top Primary School;**
- **Derwent Primary School;**
- **Osmaston Primary School; and**
- **Pear Tree Junior School.**

05/17 Proposal to merge Brackensdale Infant and Junior Schools to create a primary school

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills considered a report of the Report of the Strategic Director for People Services to approve consultation on a proposal to 'merge' Brackensdale Infant School and Brackensdale Junior School to form an all-through primary school from January 2018.

The Acting Director of Commissioning and Head of School Organisation and Provision reported that current policy is to consider 'mergers' against a set of criteria when an opportunity arises due to a headteacher vacancy occurring in either an infant or junior school and that such an opportunity has arisen due to the retirement of the Headteacher at Brackensdale Infant School in July 2017.

It was further reported that, if approved, the outcome of this initial consultation will be reported to Council Cabinet in August or September for approval to move the next stage of the statutory process which involves a further four week formal consultation process and the publication of a statutory notice. The Cabinet Member confirmed that she was in agreement with the proposals, particularly in light of the information that both Governing Bodies at Brackensdale Infant School and Brackensdale Junior School support the merger proposal to create a primary school.

It was resolved to approve consultation on a proposal to 'merge' Brackensdale Infant School and Brackensdale Junior School to form an all-through primary school from January 2018.

MINUTES END