

---

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 1 April 2009

SUBJECT: Deputation to Council – 28 January 2009 – Leeds Schools Together

---

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### 1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Representatives from “Leeds Schools Together” were granted a deputation to the Council on 28 January 2009. The deputation was in opposition to proposals to establish further academies in Leeds, specifically to replace the existing South Leeds High School and Intake High School.

#### 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Executive Board is asked to note:
- i) that the issues presented through the deputation were similar to those raised during the consultations on the future of South Leeds and Intake High Schools and presented in detail to the December Executive Board meeting;
  - ii) that when making decisions on the future of these schools the Executive Board were already aware of the concerns expressed in the deputation.

---

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 1 April 2009

SUBJECT: Deputation to Council – 28 January 2009 – Leeds Schools Together

---

<p><b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)</p>	<p><b>Specific Implications For:</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Diversity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/></p>
--	--

Eligible for Call-in

Not Eligible for Call-in  
(Details contained in the Report)

---

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 Representatives from “Leeds Schools Together” were granted a deputation to the Council on 28 January 2009. The deputation was in opposition to proposals to establish further academies in Leeds, specifically to replace the existing South Leeds High School and Intake High School.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Leeds Schools Together is a forum made up of parents, school governors, staff, and professional associations, who collectively oppose proposals for South Leeds and Intake High Schools becoming academies.

2.2 The deputation outlined concerns about the consultation process led by Education Leeds and detailed in reports to the December Executive Board meeting; about how judgments are made about the progress these schools are making; about the track record of academies nationally; on the views expressed by staff in Trades Union surveys in the two schools; about the loss of local accountability; and about alternative response the Council might make to respond to perceived government pressure. The deputation restated issues that had been raised in detail during the

consultation. Included at Annex 1 is a record of the speech made to the Council through the deputation.

2.3 Following the decisions of the Executive Board in December 2008 statutory notices were published inviting objections to the proposals. No statutory objections were received. Subsequently the Executive Board in March 2009 decided to confirm the closures of South Leeds and Intake High Schools and their replacement with academies.

### 3.0 **THE MAIN ISSUES**

3.1 The December Executive Board received a record of the issues raised during the consultations on the future of both South Leeds and Intake High Schools. It also received detailed responses from Education Leeds on all the issues raised.

3.2 The record summarised and grouped issues raised during the consultation under the following main themes;

- the reasons for further change, and the desire for stability to consolidate following extensive recent change and disruption – why an academy?
- staffing issues; employment rights, staffing structure, pay and conditions, union recognition, the role of the current headteacher.
- details of the proposed academy; curriculum and specialism, admissions policy, exclusions policy, transition arrangements, sixth form. Why and how it would be better and improve outcomes for young people and the community.
- the sponsor; their role, funding, plans and background, comparisons with other academy sponsors.
- governance, accountability, and process issues.
- financial and miscellaneous matters.
- the need for new buildings, and the arrangements for design, construction, and transition.

Within each theme a series of specific issues that emerged during the consultation are recorded and a response offered to each.

3.3 Education Leeds made considerable effort to consult relevant stakeholders, record their feedback, and ensure that this was shared publicly and specifically brought to the attention of the Executive Board. The deputation restated issues that had already been brought to the attention of the Executive Board. No statutory objections were received. This is an indication of the nature of the consultation process led by Education Leeds on behalf of the city council.

### 4.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 The Executive Board is asked to note:

- i) that the issues presented through the deputation were similar to those raised during the consultations on the future of South Leeds and Intake High Schools and presented in detail to the December Executive Board meeting;
- ii) that when making decisions on the future of these schools the Executive Board were already aware of the concerns expressed in the deputation.

## **BACKGROUND REPORTS**

Exec Board October 07. Consultation Draft on the future of Academies in Leeds.

Exec Board April 08. Consideration of an Expression of Interest to establish an academy to serve the Bramley area.

Exec Board July 08. South Leeds Expression of Interest.

Schools Forum Report 18<sup>th</sup> September 2008. Future secondary school provision proposals for Intake High School and South Leeds High School.

Exec Board December 08. Future Secondary Provision for Intake High School.

Exec Board December 08. Future Secondary Provision for South Leeds High School.

Exec Board March 09. Proposal to close Intake High School on 31 August 2009.

Exec Board March 09. Proposal to close South Leeds High School on 31 August 2009.

## Annex 1