

Liberal Democrat Councillor Penny Ewens

Councillor W Hyde Conservative Office 4th Floor East Civic Hall

3 Holmwood Drive Leeds LS6 4NF

E-mail penny.ewens@leeds.gov.uk Website: http://tinyurl.com/24a3jw Home Tel (0113) 294 6976 Civic Tel (0113) 247 4580

Our ref PE/JW Date 22 June 2009

Dear Councillor Hyde

We should like to submit, for scrutiny by the Children's Services Scrutiny Board, the procedures which have been followed in order to consider the change of City of Leeds High School from a high school within the jurisdiction of the Leeds City Council and Education Leeds to an Academy, which is outside those jurisdictions.

It has been an extremely hasty procedure with no consultation other than with governors and staff of City of Leeds High School.

Within eight days staff and governors were expected to hear proposals from three possible sponsors and submit their preference.

Local parents, students and the local primary schools have had no official notification of the possible change for their children of a local high school to an Academy.

The methodology is undemocratic and contravenes most concepts of democracy; it is contrary to the government proclamations of the localisation of decision making and the promotion of community cohesion and has a strong potential for destroying the many achievements and partnerships which the school has created on its present site.

We are not asking that the Scrutiny Board looks at what decision will be made, but at the level and manner of consultation on such a major decision for the school to be made.

There is no reference made to the future of the partner school, Primrose High School.

It would be expeditious if you could programme this in to the Scrutiny agenda on the 9 July as a late item; otherwise a decision will be made by Education Leeds before the end of August and that will be too late for proper consultation to take place.

We look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Penny Ewens Governor Leeds Central Federation (Hyde Park & Woodhouse)

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Ralph Pryne

Councillor Ralph Pryke Governor Leeds Central Federation (Burmantofts & Richmond Hill)