

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS & CHILDRENS SERVICES ADVISORY PANEL

THURSDAY, 20 JULY 2006

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 20 July 2006. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Melanie Carr – email: melanie.carr@york.gov.uk , Tel No. 01904 552061

5. LOCAL AUTHORITY (LA) SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Members considered a report which highlighted the current position with regard to vacancies for Local Authority seats on governing bodies, listed nominations for those vacancies and requested the appointment, or re-appointment of the listed nominees.

It was noted that all governing bodies were required to reconstitute by 31 August 2006 under the terms of the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2003.

Many governing bodies had agreed to adopt a new constitution and in some cases that had affected the size of those bodies. It was noted that this had resulted in a larger number of governor vacancies than would normally be the case - Annex one of the report detailed the current position of each governing body.

Advice of the Advisory Panel:

That the Executive Member be advised to appoint, or re-appoint LA Governors to fill vacant seats as proposed in Annex One.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed

REASON: To progress work in this area.

6. BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE - ONE-SCHOOL PATHFINDER

Members considered a report informing them that York had been selected as one of 25 pathfinder authorities to be invited to build a single new secondary school under the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

The DfES had prioritised the order in which Local Authorities entered the scheme using the joint criteria of school standards and ward deprivation factors. However, in the case of York, the DfES had recognised that this would mean a considerable wait before schools with major condition and

suitability issues could be renewed.

It was noted that there were a number of mandatory terms and conditions set by the DfES as part of their offer, including:

- The new building must be opened by September 2009
- The scheme must be delivered on budget
- The scheme must be consistent with the authority's long-term secondary strategy and the educational vision of BSF
- The scheme is required to achieve a schools BREEAM 'very good' rating in terms of its environmental performance
- The scheme must use the Design Quality Indicator for Schools and adopt best principles in project procurement
- The LA must evaluate the outcome of the project and share the results with the DfES, Partnerships for Schools (PfS) and other LAs.

Members were informed of the analysis undertaken to consider which of the secondary schools in York should be nominated as the Pathfinder school. This included school capacity, pupil numbers, building condition, school improvement targets and standards. Four schools were short listed but the final report recommended that Joseph Rowntree school be selected as the pathfinder school as it was in need of at least £3.2 million worth of condition work to bring basic facilities to a reasonable standard.

The next stage involved consultation on design and Members asked that the results be presented to the committee once completed. It was also noted how important it was to ensure the inclusion of facilities for community use and it was recognised that grants could be sought to enhance this part of the project.

Advice of the Advisory Panel:

That the Executive Member be recommended to:

- Note that York had been selected as one of 25 pathfinder authorities to be invited to build a single new secondary school under the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.
- Nominate Joseph Rowntree School as York's pathfinder and request officers to work with the school in order to prepare and submit a detailed proposal as required by the DfES.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed

REASON: To progress work in this area.

