


FORM S & PP 3

 Walsall Council	REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL	DATE: 17 September 2008 Agenda item
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STRUCTURE OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS

DATE CONSIDERED BY CABINET: 16th July 2008

CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Councillor Zahid Ali

DATE OF SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL MEETING: 24th July 2008

Grounds under which the matter was called in for scrutiny:

The Cabinet decision of 16th July 2008, that:

Cabinet agreed that consultation, on the closure of Darlaston (Community Science College) on 31 August 2009 to enable it to open on 1 September 2009 as an Academy, takes place early in the Autumn Term (section 5).

was called in for scrutiny for the following reasons:

- To scrutinise the process followed to date
- To scrutinise the proposed format of consultation

Record here the Scrutiny and Performance Panel's conclusions and proposals:

Members who called-in the Cabinet decision expressed concerns over the fragmentation of schools in Walsall. They also stated that Scrutiny should have the opportunity to examine the information that is sent to parents as well as the questions within the consultation itself. A Member who signed the call-in had permission from the chair of governors, Tony Rowley, to read out a letter he had written expressing concerns over the proposed academy. The Panel heard the contents of the letter, detailing those concerns.

Tony Stainer gave background on the proposed academy and explained that informal consultation had commenced in July 2007. Members heard that, as a failing school, if, at the next stage of inspection, no improvement was found to have been made, Darlaston would be forced to close or take on academy status.

Members discussed the importance of a proper, open consultation in ensuring everyone gets the chance to have their say, including the governors. Members

were assured that the language of the consultation is designed to be accessible to all members of the community.

A vote was taken and with 5 in favour, 0 against, the following recommendation was passed:

That the Darlaston consultation process should commence immediately and be as wide as possible and should include the National Union of Teachers and the Anti Academies Alliance.

Record here the specific recommendations of the Scrutiny and Performance Panel:

That the Darlaston consultation process should commence immediately and be as wide as possible and should include the National Union of Teachers and the Anti Academies Alliance.

Explain here how the proposals/recommendations of the Scrutiny and Performance Panel differ from those of Cabinet:

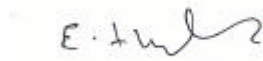
Although the Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel support the Cabinet decision made on 16 July 2008, as detailed above, this is subject to the consultation being as wide as possible and including the National Union of Teachers and the Anti Academies Alliance.

This form provides an accurate record of the meeting of the above named Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

Chair of Scrutiny and Performance Panel (name)

Councillor Eddie Hughes

Signature:



Date: 18 August 2008