

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4(A)

A Councillors Brigid Jones and Penny Holbrook have given notice of the following motion:-

“This Council notes:

The publication of the Government’s White Paper, Educational Excellence Everywhere, which

- dictates that the 66% of Birmingham schools that have chosen not to adopt the academy model must do so by 2022
- is projected to cost the people of Birmingham £5-15k per school transferred
- will remove from parents the right to be represented on the governing body of their child’s school
- proposes to leave the council with duties to schools, parents and children which it will no longer have the power or the money to enact
- Head teachers at all levels have expressed concerns to the Council about the contents of the white paper through our consultative forums.

This Council further notes:

The Schools National Funding Formula Consultation, which

- is taking place over the school Easter Holidays
- has the laudable aim of making funding fairer for schools nationwide
- will factor in a minimum funding guarantee when allocating funding to local authorities and which local authorities will have to reflect when determining school budgets in the 2 year transitional period
- Birmingham’s Schools Forum has expressed its concerns about the potential negative impact of these reforms on our children should the total funding pot nationally not increase sufficiently.

This Council believes:

- that many Birmingham schools, whilst already some of the best funded in the country, are struggling at current funding levels
- that fair funding is essential nationwide
- that the total funding pot for schools nationally needs to increase to allow for the worst funded schools to be brought up to adequate levels, rather than by knocking the best down
- that the minimum funding guarantee for individual schools should remain at its existing level of 1.5% (ie no school should suffer a loss of more than 1.5% on a per pupil basis from the previous year) – unless total funding is increased.
- that in order for the council to carry out its statutory duties, it must be afforded adequate funding and powers to do so
- that parents should retain the right to be represented on governing bodies
- that the government should not force well achieving schools into a reorganisation that the school does not believe to be in the best interests of its pupils.
- that the people of Birmingham should be compensated for the cuts to their services that the council will have to make to fund this reorganisation through reimbursement of legal costs to the council.

This Council requests:

- The Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State to set out concerns that the city's head teachers and the Council have about the potential impact of these reforms on the futures of our young people, and to suggest to her amendments that could be made to compensate for this."

B Councillors Matt Bennett and Deirdre Alden have given notice of the following motion:-

"The Council welcomes the recent decision by the Secretary of State for Education to allow the expansion of a grammar school in Kent on to a satellite site, reaffirming the view that good schools, of any type, should be able to expand; a policy which is vital to meet the significant increase in demand for pupil places in coming years.

Birmingham has a number of excellent grammar schools but provision has not kept pace with demand, particular relating to girls. The Executive should therefore begin immediate discussions with the top performing grammar schools in the City to look at opportunities to expand, including to satellite sites, so that they are able to offer more places and raise aspirations and attainment for all our children."