

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

COLLEGE/COUNCIL STRATEGIC LIAISON GROUP

**Minutes of a Meeting of the above Group held on
Monday 26 April 2010 at 10.00 am in Meeting Rooms 1 and 2,
King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn**

PRESENT:

Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Councillor Nick Daubney, Leader (Chairman)

Ray Harding, Chief Executive

Kathy Wagg, Democratic Services Officer

College of West Anglia

Peter Dixon, College Chairman

David Pomfret, Principal

Arlene Clark, Executive Director – Curriculum and Learning

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Z Christopher -
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk and Roger Ward -
(Governor) College of West Anglia

1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 September 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

2 MATTERS ARISING

4(ii) D Pomfret handed round the latest organisational chart which had been sent out with the minutes.

3 COLLEGE CORPORATE ISSUES

D Pomfret, Principal provided a verbal update on college issues as set out below.

(i) The Academy

D Pomfret advised that progress of the academy was currently on target. The staffing structure was currently being considered by the unions. A company had recently been appointed to deal with the corporate identity, ie. branding, signage, etc. He reported that after having interviewed twice for the position of Principal and not making an appointment, it had been agreed to look for an Interim Principal for 4 terms. That position had been offered to someone who had been identified through the interview process, and would hopefully be in post next month.

Results of the consultation with the public showed that 93% were in favour of closing Park High School. 330 responses had been received in relation to the proposed name 'King's Lynn Academy', with over 50% being in favour.

In relation to the proposed location of the Academy, R Harding explained that discussions had been held with the County Council regarding the possible swapping of the site to the opposite side of the road. Norfolk Property Services were preparing schematic plans for the new site in preparation for a meeting on Friday 30 April. He added that by relocating the site this could result in cost savings and a faster timescale for completion of the new Academy. He confirmed that there would be adequate space on the proposed new site and the traffic cap would also have been lifted. He added that overall this could be a more cost effective solution. He hoped to be able to get agreement in principle to the relocation of the site at the meeting scheduled for Friday 30 April.

D Pomfret highlighted that land agreement was one of the key issues to be addressed and it was important to get that agreed as soon as possible.

N Daubney added that the Council would do what it could to help.

(ii) Accommodation Strategy

D Pomfret reported that following the meeting held with County Councillor Derek Murphy, the County Council would be putting together a briefing paper for a forthcoming Cabinet Meeting. He stressed that a continued momentum was required. A follow-up meeting would also be arranged. R Harding advised that County Councillor Derek Murphy had indicated that he would like to have a meeting with Peter Dixon, College Chairman.

D Pomfret also advised that there was very little scope within the school development plans however this would continue to be explored.

Councillor Daubney added that the Council would like to offer continued support and it was agreed that a briefing be arranged to update the 'dual hatter' Councillors.

AGREED: (1) That a meeting be arranged between County Councillor Derek Murphy and Peter Dixon (RH to organise).

(2) That a briefing be organised to update the 'dual hatter' Councillors (ND/RH to organise).

4 BOROUGH COUNCIL ISSUES

R Harding, Chief Executive, provided a verbal update on Borough Council issues as set out below.

(i) Elections

R Harding reported that the Borough were dealing with two constituencies this time, however issues were being encountered with the different software used by Breckland District Council. There was also a by-election being held on the same day. The count would be held overnight. The number of people registered to vote had increased which could be attributable to the TV debates.

(ii) Service Reviews

R Harding advised that the Council had carried out a range of service reviews which had amounted to £920,000 of savings. Currently, the Council was looking into shared services for Revenues and Benefits which could potentially amount in a saving of £250,000.

Another area the Council was investigating was the joint procurement of Refuse and Recycling with North Norfolk District Council. Positive tenders for the contract had been received.

The Council had also been looking at models for decriminalization of on-street car parking.

(iii) Leisure Trust

The Council's Management Team would be considering a paper on the feasibility of the formation of a Leisure Trust which had the potential to save £250,000.

(iv) Mini Reviews

R Harding reported that mini reviews were being carried out throughout the Council and had resulted in substantial savings.

D Pomfret advised that he had attended a meeting on shared services with other colleges which could include shared facilities. He also made reference to a potential formal agreement for students and staff to use the public car parking, however the costs proposed by the Council were not feasible.

ACTION: R Harding to discuss the car parking issue with C Bamfield.

(v) NORA

R Harding reported that the utilities contract was due to be completed in June 2010.

The planning application for the enterprise centre had been approved and was waiting for a response from the Homes & Communities Agency. Approval had also been given for a joint venture on the next phase of housing on site.

A programme of development had also been agreed with the Homes & Communities Agency who was looking at a site at Marsh Lane, Gaywood.

The planning applications for Tesco and Sainsbury's were due to be considered by the Development Control Board in June 2010.

The Council's capital programme had been rephased into a decade of development, which was a self funding programme and had been approved by Cabinet.

5 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- D Pomfret reported that the College had been subject to OFSTED inspections, which had gone well and the results would be published in due course on the website.
- P Dixon, on behalf of the Governors, thanked R Harding and N Daubney for the work they had carried out.
- Academy – D Pomfret advised that the Trust and Board of Governors would soon be established and asked if the Council knew of any individual who could add value to the process and who would be interested in serving on them, to let him know.

6 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed for Monday 27 September 2010 at 10.00 am, College of West Anglia

The Meeting closed 11.00 am