

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **The Cabinet**

Date of Committee **12th October 2006**

Report Title **Establishment of a shadow governing body for Hartshill School**

Summary The Local Authority needs to establish a shadow governing body for Hartshill School to work alongside the Interim Executive Board.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision] No

Background papers

- Hartshill School Ofsted Reports, March 2002, March 2004 and July 2006
- DfES Guidance LEA/0360/2002 Schools Causing Concern
- Cabinet report 3.6.04

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Cllr Richard Grant – Hartshill
- Other Elected Members Cllr John Whitehouse
CYP&F O&S Spokespersons for information:
Cllr Helen McCarthy – “support”
Cllr Richard Grant – “noted”
Cllr Jill Dill-Russell – “read and noted report”
- Cabinet Member Cllr John Burton

- Other Cabinet Members consulted
- Chief Executive
- Legal Victoria Gould – “fine”
- Finance David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources – “fine”
- Other Strategic Directors
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **YES**

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

The Cabinet – 12th October 2006

Establishment of a shadow governing body for Hartshill School

Report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families

Recommendation:

That the Cabinet approves the arrangement described in this report for the establishment of a shadow governing body for Hartshill School.

1. Background

- 1.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 places various statutory intervention powers on the Local Authority. This includes the power to replace the governing body of a school with an interim executive board (IEB). The Secretary of State's approval is required before an IEB can be established.
- 1.2 Hartshill School was inspected in March 2004 and found to require special measures and the effectiveness of the governing body was identified as a concern. At its meeting on 3rd June 2004 Cabinet considered a report on the situation at Hartshill School and authorised the former County Education Officer to undertake work to establish an IEB and to seek the approval of the Secretary of State.
- 1.3 An IEB was established at the school to replace the governing body from 1st September 2004.

2. Transition from Interim Executive Board to a normally constituted governing body

- 2.1 Regulations provide for the Local Authority to make arrangements for the establishment of a shadow governing body to work alongside the IEB for a minimum of six months prior to the expected date for the disbanding of the IEB. The IEB may delegate specific tasks and responsibilities. Shadow governors are appointed by the Local Authority.

2.2 From the date the IEB ceases, the shadow governing body assumes full responsibility as if it were a normally constituted governing body. Within thirteen months of that date the Local Authority must appoint a normally constituted governing body to replace the shadow governing body.

3. Hartshill School

3.1 Since the school was placed in special measures, HMI has visited termly to assess progress. A further full Ofsted inspection was carried out in July 2006. Ofsted found that the school no longer requires special measures, although there are significant areas where improvement is still required. As a result the school has been issued with a Notice to Improve.

3.2 The Local Authority is working closely with the IEB and staff at the school to resolve these outstanding issues and we expect a further Ofsted inspection in June or July 2007 to find that the issues have been satisfactorily dealt with. Consequently the Local Authority expects the IEB to be disbanded from 31st August 2007.

3.3 To enable this to happen a shadow governing body will need to be established during the coming months to work alongside the IEB. It would then take over from the IEB from 1st September 2007.

3.4 It is therefore suggested that arrangements are now made to establish a shadow governing body for Hartshill School by the end of December 2006. The constitution of the shadow governing body will be in accordance with the School Governance (Constitution) Regulations 2003 and will be as follows

- 6 Parent governors
- 3 Staff governors
- 2 LA governors
- 3 Community governors
- 4 Partnership governors
- Total number of governors : 18

3.5 A normally constituted governing body would then be established for 1st September 2008.

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27th September 2006