

The **RUGBY AREA COMMITTEE** met at **ROKEBY JUNIOR SCHOOL, ANDERSON AVENUE, RUGBY** on the **30 JANUARY 2006**.

Present:-

Councillor John Vereker (Chair)

“ Richard Dodd

“ Katherine King

“ Brian Levy

“ Philip Morris-Jones

“ Jerry Roodhouse

“ Ian Smith

“ Heather Timms

“ John Wells

Officers:-

Phil Astle, Education Officer, School Reorganisation

Nick Darwen, Area Manager

Peter Endall, Senior Solicitor

Mark Gore, Assistant County Education Officer

Neil Gulliver, Principal Committee Administrator

Peter Thompson, Senior Area Education Officer

10 members of the public.

1. **General**

1. **Apologies**

were received from Councillors Tom Cavanagh and Gordon Collett.

2. **Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

Councillors Jerry Roodhouse and John Wells declared personal interests as Governors of Eastlands Primary and Brownsover Community Infant Schools respectively. .

2. **Rokeby Primary Schools**

The report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families was considered.

Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Timms, moved:-

That Rugby Area Committee, having carefully considered the facts and arguments contained in the extensive representations made to them, recommends to Cabinet:-

1. that the proposal to amalgamate Rokeby Infant and Junior Schools to form a new primary school be supported
2. that the proposed primary school should be located at the site of the present Infant School.

Councillor King suggested that further consideration should also be given to Option 2a in the Strategic Director's report with regard to the land swap. Councillor Smith agreed that he would be happy to include this within his motion.

The Chair then opened up the debate during which a number of issues were highlighted which Members felt should be drawn to the attention of the Cabinet:-

- Efforts should be made when designing the new school to utilise the existing footpath adjacent to the rear of the current Junior School site as a means of access to the proposed playing fields.
- The Cabinet should be made aware of the Area Committee's concerns that sufficient funding will be available to ensure that the proposed scheme is delivered.
- Any new school would need to have the capacity to extend should pupil numbers increase in the future. Alternatively, if a new build was not practical, Cabinet should consider whether the retention of both buildings might serve as a means of providing that flexibility.
- Very great care would need to be given to the planning for the change so as to not disrupt the education of the pupils.
- The greatly valued community use of the school must be allowed to continue and, if possible, be further developed.

Councillor Levy, seconded by Councillor Dodd, moved as an amendment:-

That the Cabinet be recommended to support Option 3 – New Build as set out in the Strategic Director's report and to note that the Area Committee believes that the proposed new school represents an important opportunity to implement the "Extended Schools" initiative and that Cabinet should apply that initiative in deciding on its preferred option.

On being put to a vote, the amendment was carried by 5 votes to 4.

Councillor Levy then stated that if Cabinet were not able to support the motion the Area Committee had just considered, he would be happy to support Councillor Smith's motion.

The Chair added that he recognised that there were concerns about the disruption which might be caused to the schools during the development of the new school and suggested that the following words should be added to the final resolution:-

That the greatest care possible is taken to avoid disrupting the work of the schools during the change process.

The Chair then put the following motion to the Committee which was carried by 8 votes to 1:-

1. That the Cabinet be recommended to support Option 3 – New Build as set out in the Strategic Director’s report and to note that the Area Committee believes that the proposed new school represents an important opportunity to implement the “Extended Schools” initiative and that Cabinet should apply that initiative in deciding on its preferred option.

(2) That, in the event Cabinet are not prepared to support Recommendation (1) above, they be further recommended to support Option 2 – Infant Building as set out in the Strategic Director’s report:-

- (i) that the proposal to amalgamate Rokeby Infant and Junior Schools to form a new primary school be supported
 - ii. that the proposed primary school should be located at the site of the present Infant School.

(3) That the officers be instructed to investigate further Option 2a – Land Swap as set out in the Strategic Director’s report.

(4) That the greatest care possible is taken to avoid disrupting the work of the schools during the change process.

3. Any Other Items

None.

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Chair of Committee

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm