

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday 1 October 2015 at 6.00pm at Telford College of Arts & Technology, Haybridge Road, Telford

PRESENT:

Councillors J.C. Ashford, S.L. Barnes, S. Bentley, K.T. Blundell, M. Boylan, A.J. Burford, S.P. Burrell, L.D. Carter, E.A. Clare, G.H. Cook, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, A.R.H. England, N.A.M. England, I.T.W. Fletcher, V.A. Fletcher, J.A. Francis, C.A. Furnival, E.J. Greenaway, K.R. Guy, M.B. Hosken, J. Jones, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, N.C. Lowery, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, A.A. Meredith, J.C. Minor, C.P.R. Mollett, L.A. Murray (Mayor), R.A. Overton, J. Pinter, G.C.W. Reynolds, S.A.W. Reynolds, S.J. Reynolds, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota (Leader), P.J. Scott, J.M. Seymour, R.J. Sloan, C.F. Smith (Speaker), M.J. Smith, B.D. Tillotson, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, C.R. Turley, P.R. Watling and D.G. Wright.

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors E.J. Carter, S. Davies, R.C. Evans, J. Loveridge and T.J. Nelson

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

35. EDUCATION POLICY

In accordance with the Constitution, five members of the Councils had submitted a request to the Speaker to arrange an urgent extraordinary public meeting of the Council with a single item of business – a motion relating to Education Policy in the Borough as set out in the agenda papers.

The Speaker reported that he had agreed to a request for the proposer of the Motion to be varied from that printed on the agenda papers, and that the Conservative Group Leader be allowed to respond to the debate on the Motion instead of the proposer.

Councillor S.P. Burrell moved the following motion:

“This Council expresses its deep concern and censure of the authority’s Cabinet leadership with regards to Education policy, provision and achievement following the announcement of the fifth school to be placed into special measures during the course of this year alone”.

The motion was seconded by Councillor M.B. Hosken.

In supporting the motion, Councillor Burrell and other main Opposition Group members referred to the concerns regarding the performance of some secondary schools in the Borough – particularly those associated with the Telford Co-operative

Multi-Academy Trust (TCMAT). It was considered that many of the failings stemmed from the top, and there could be no confidence among parents in the current system and the leadership of the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People. The situation was totally unacceptable, and the standard of secondary education needed to improve to give young people in the Borough a chance to succeed.

A number of Members spoke against the motion and referred to the damage done by Ofsted inspectors as a result of changes in the rules for the school inspection process. It was pointed out that most of the schools in special measures were academies and therefore outside the Council's control or powers. The Cabinet Member for Children & Young People expressed his disappointment with the motion, and updated Members on the new sponsor in place for the former TCMAT schools and the support the Council was providing for Charlton School.

Councillor A.J. Eade responded to the debate on behalf of Councillor Burrell.

A vote on the motion was taken, which resulted in the motion being lost (21 for, 28 against).

The meeting ended at 6.32 pm.

Mayor:

Date: