

## **Lifelong Learning Select Committee –**

### **Suggested Questions from mark Greenburgh on the "call in" of the decision on Hatters Lane School**

I have now read the supporting papers and the report of the Cabinet member. I should say at once that the papers are much clearer in setting out the reason why the Cabinet member intended to act as he did. They do set out a logic for so doing.

However, in order to be thorough I would like members of the committee to be satisfied on the following issues. Please offer these as suggested lines of enquiry for the committee:

1. Taking the assumption that the most important success factors for a school are the leadership and the staff; in what ways does the present proposal address the chronic lack of quality leadership or the ability of the school to recruit and retain talented staff?
2. Has an audit been undertaken of the accommodation at the school and does the present proposal deal with any areas of weakness or criticism leveled by OFSTED in terms of the accommodation and provision of science, and other specialist facilities?
3. The next critical success factor is a supportive parent partnership - what steps have been taken to use the Section 11 out reach and ethnic minority community workers to engage with the community and set home school contracts for behavior and achievement?
4. What steps have been taken to strengthen the Governing Body and ensure that it is able to lead the improvement of the school?
5. 6th Form provision is touched on in the Report - what steps have been taken to work in partnership with Wycombe College or other 6th Forms (Schools) to provide courses at Hatters Lane. To do so will attract staff and diversify the use of the site making it more a community resource and associate the school with successes.
6. What thought was given to locating other public facilities on site such as a health centre, library or other community facility?
7. I asked Mr. Mooney to speak to Dr Andrew Povey, the Chair of Education in Surrey in May of 2000 and to speak to other LEA's that had tried Fresh Start (it was then being reported in the press that Fresh Start actually had a very poor success rate. I wanted Bucks to learn from these experiences). I asked Dr Povey if he had been contacted, he said not. Who exactly did we speak to (if anyone)? Did we visit any Fresh Start Schools? Have we spoken to any Fresh Start Heads (successful or otherwise) to learn from their experiences and how is this proposal different from the failed attempts at Fresh Start that have been reported in the press?
8. Accepting that we consulted very widely in Wycombe and that the DfEE are supportive of Fresh Start (it is their initiative) what external advice did we take from Educational Consultants or Beacon Authorities as to solutions to the problems associated with the school?
9. Denominational Schools are all very successful. Did we consider seeking voluntary aided status for the school and inviting the faith communities to work with us in running the school?
10. Is Mr Appleyard satisfied that this is the best option for Hatters Lane (as opposed to being the simplest or the cheapest, not that I am suggesting that it is either) and that the solution offered will lead to measurable improvement? If so, please specify the improvement together with the time-line and reporting arrangements.-