



CABINET - 10 MAY 2010

**SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT – PROPOSED GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR THE POST-16 CENTRE IN MELTON MOWBRAY**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

PART A

Purpose of Report

1. To advise of progress on the establishment of the joint management and governance arrangements of the new Melton Post-16 Centre and proposals for the future of the Hub.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
 - (a) notes progress to date; and
 - (b) endorses the further action set out in this report, to establish joint collaborative arrangements from 1 September 2011.

Reasons for recommendations

3. The establishment of a jointly managed Post-16 Centre is in keeping with the decision of the Cabinet in March 2007.
4. Joint management ensures that the three secondary schools in the Melton and Vale of Belvoir Partnership plus other key education partners are fully involved in post-16 provision.
5. Early establishment of the joint arrangements for post-16 education provides clarity and certainty for staff and students.
6. Establishing the Hub as a company limited by guarantee which may obtain charitable status will provide a more secure basis for providing services to young people and the wider community in Melton Mowbray.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

7. To develop the joint governance arrangements for post-16 requires detailed work with schools and early decisions to be taken by their governing bodies. It

is expected that the bulk of this work will be completed by the end of the summer term 2010 to enable the governing bodies to delegate powers to a shadow Joint Committee in autumn 2010. King Edward VII School retains responsibility for post-16 education until the closure of the school on 31 August 2011.

8. The Hub Company is expected to be established and operating by September 2010.
9. The Children and Young People's Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee has previously considered issues relating to the Melton and Vale of Belvoir Schools Re-organisation on 11 November and 18 December 2009 and 8 February 2010. This has included some discussion on the Hub and Post-16 arrangements.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

10. The Cabinet at its meeting on 5 March 2007 gave approval to the proposals to re-organise schools in Melton Mowbray and the Vale of Belvoir. This included the development of three 11-19 schools in Melton Mowbray and an 11-19 school in Bottesford to serve the Vale of Belvoir, all of which would provide education for 11-16 year olds. They would be supported by a separate Post-16 Centre to be located within Melton Mowbray, jointly managed by the schools in partnership.
11. The proposals for re-organisation were subsequently confirmed by the County Council on 21 March 2007.

Resource Implications

12. The joint governance arrangements proposed by the County Council are that the staff of the Post-16 Centre are employed by a single host Partnership school and that students are also on the roll of this school. It is proposed that, subject to further discussion with Partnership schools, Belvoir High School takes on this role. Under this arrangement funding for all post-16 students would flow through Belvoir High School and be passported directly to the Post-16 Centre.
13. Some transition costs are being incurred by partner schools as a result of the re-organisation. These are being met from schools own resources or the contingency fund administered by the LA on behalf of the Schools (Funding) Forum.
14. The Hub is currently a part of King Edward VII School and operates under a peppercorn lease from the County Council in premises on Burton Road (on the former Craven Lodge site). On establishment of the Hub Company the lease between the King Edward VII Governing Body and the Council will be terminated. A new peppercorn lease will then be set up with the Hub Company.

15. Staff currently working at the Hub will transfer under the TUPE Regulations to the new Company. No redundancies are therefore expected.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

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PART B

Background

16. In March 2007, the Cabinet (and subsequently full Council) agreed proposals for the re-organisation of secondary schools in Melton Mowbray and the Vale of Belvoir, to enable:
 - the development of four 11-19 schools in Melton Mowbray and the Vale of Belvoir, on existing school sites; and
 - the provision of a new jointly managed Post-16 Centre located in Melton Mowbray.
17. The Hub, presently part of King Edward VII School, provides learning opportunities and support for young people (mostly 14-16 year olds), in particular those vulnerable to exclusion and disengagement from learning. It was established in June 2006 using Access Centre funding from EMDA. This helped to renovate an existing disused building.
18. In collaboration with Melton Borough Council, the Hub also provides community space and opportunities for young people and local groups. This work has impacted positively on local crime and disorder figures. The Hub also provides a summer programme of activities.
19. From September 2008 the other three secondary schools in the Partnership began to retain their Year 10 students, starting with Belvoir High School and some of these students now attend the Hub. The change of age range to 11-19 of the Partnership schools has called into question the future of the Hub as a part of King Edward VII School. This is further complicated by the proposal to close King Edward VII School in September 2011.

Proposals for joint arrangements for the Post-16 Centre

20. The Post-16 Centre in Melton has been created to enable students to have access to excellent and effective provision and practice. Building work on the £12.5 million Centre is well advanced, with completion due by Easter 2011. The Centre will:
 - have a distinct and special ethos with its own branding and identity;
 - provide a diverse range of courses to meet a wide range of student needs;
 - have a Director to oversee the day-to-day running of the Centre;
 - have a core staff with expertise at this phase of education, whilst sharing some staff with partner schools;
 - provide high quality pastoral care and guidance to support the needs of individual students;
 - champion the inclusion agenda to help to ensure pathways which ensure progression across the partnership;

- monitor the progress of students frequently and rigorously, intervening when necessary to ensure that students stay on track;
 - develop 'student voice' and student participation at all levels of the management and leadership of The Centre;
 - have strong and effective communication with parents; and
 - provide students with an effective and inspirational platform to move from statutory education to Further/Higher Education, training and the world of work.
21. The Post 16 Centre will be governed by a Joint Committee, which will be established under Regulation 3 of the School Governance Regulations (Collaboration) (England) Regulations 2003. It will be made up of two governors/headteacher from each of the Partnership secondary schools, the Post-16 Director plus Associate Members from Birch Wood Special School; Brooksby Melton College; the Local Authority (LA); the Community; and local business. The Committee will elect its own chair annually. The chair can be any member of the Joint Committee.
22. The Joint Committee will have delegated responsibility for:
- curriculum development and delivery;
 - standards setting and meeting improvement targets;
 - staffing issues, as set out above, including appointment, discipline and grievance issues;
 - pupil behaviour, attendance and welfare;
 - Health and Safety;
 - examination entry;
 - finance (although the bank account legally has to be in the name of the host school);
 - strategic planning; and
 - marketing, promotion and public relations.
23. A name will be agreed across the Partnership for the Post-16 Centre. It will have its own distinctive branding and image.
24. Each of the principal schools will retain their 11-19 age-range. The LA as commissioner will not commission post-16 places other than at the Post-16 Centre.
25. The LA has proposed that the staff of the Post-16 Centre should all be employed by one school – Belvoir. However, some of the Post-16 Centre staff will also work in Partnership schools and some staff from Partnership schools will also work in the Post 16 Centre at certain times (this is be reflected in their contracts of employment). This will enable expertise to be shared across Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 and allow a greater breadth of curriculum offer. In addition

the LA is proposing that the host school should also have all the students on roll to ensure clarity and consistency for students about where they 'belong' and ensure clear lines of accountability for quality assurance and outcomes.

26. Finance follows the students; hence the host school will receive finance for the Post-16 Centre from the LA. However, this will be ring-fenced and will be under the day-to-day control of the Joint Committee and the Director of the Post-16 Centre, within agreed delegation limits
27. The playing fields and community assets will remain in the ownership of the LA. The Joint Committee may manage these community facilities on behalf of the LA. The Post-16 Centre buildings will be held in the same way as other school buildings are held for the host school. So, if as the LA is proposing the host school is Belvoir, the Post-16 Centre buildings will be transferred to the Trust.
28. Following discussion of these proposals, Chairs of Governors will be expected to gain approval from their governing bodies to the principles of the agreement. This will enable negotiations to be undertaken in relation to the establishment of documentation for the Joint Committee and the delegation of functions.
29. Each Governing Body will then be asked by the LA to agree to a detailed motion setting out a statement of delegation to the Joint Committee, as well as a form of words to be used to approve the various documents required. These resolutions will effectively create the Joint Committee which will come into existence thereafter.
30. It is intended that a memorandum of understanding reflecting the above principles be signed by all parties by the end of May and that the collaboration agreement and creation of the Joint Committee and delegations be in place by July 2010.

Equal Opportunities Implications

31. The establishment of joint post-16 arrangements and the proposals for the future of the Hub will help to ensure that all children, young people and the wider community have access to good quality learning to meet their aspirations and needs.

Conclusions

32. The proposals for joint post-16 arrangements and the Hub are in keeping with the spirit of the approval given by Cabinet in March 2007 to put learners first. Through collaboration and partnership working they will ensure that effective arrangements are in place to deliver high quality learning opportunities for all post-16 students and users of the Hub.

Background Papers

Reports to the Cabinet – 5 March 2007, 15 January 2008, 10 November 2009, 15 December 2009 and 9 March 2010.

Report to the County Council – 21 March 2007.

Reports to Children and Young People’s Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee– 11 November and 18 December 2009, and 8 February 2010.