

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES of a meeting of the School Organisation Advisory Board held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 3 December 2009.

PRESENT: Mrs V J Dagger (Chairman), Mr D L Brazier, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey and Mr M J Vye

ALSO PRESENT: Mr G Cooke

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D Adams (Area Children's Services Officer, Ashford & Shepway) and Mr M Doole (Area Education Officer Thanet & Dover) and Mr G Mills (Democratic Services)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Minutes - 4 November 2009

(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2009 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2. School Organisation - School Improvement Models

(Item 4)

Report by Mrs Rosalind Turner, Managing Director Children, Families and Education)

(1) This report provided details on the different types of schools in Kent and commented on new models being introduced to support school improvement.

(2) During the course of discussion members of the Advisory Board raised a number of questions, particularly in relation to the establishment and operation of academies, to which officers responded accordingly.

(3) Following discussion the Board noted the report and placed on record it's thanks to officers for bringing these matters forward for discussion.

3. Proposed Closure of Archers Court Maths and Computing College (Dover) and its replacement with a Government Funded Academy

(Item 5)

Report by Mrs Rosalind Turner, Managing Director Children, Families and Education)

(1) This report set out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to close Archers Court Maths and Computing College, Dover in order that it may be replaced with a government funded Academy.

(2) In presenting this report Mr Doole circulated a supplementary paper summarising the written responses. This showed that 180 consultation documents had been circulated to which there had been ten replies, all supporting the proposal. He also reported orally that 14 responses had been sent direct to the school and of these there were 13 in favour of the proposal with 1 against.

(3) During the course of discussion Members of the Advisory Board raised a number of questions regarding the establishment and operation of the academy to which Mr Doole responded accordingly. Mr Doole also gave assurances regarding the continuing role of the Aspen 2 Unit in providing specialist facilities for students with Profound Severe and Complex needs.

(4) Following further discussion the Advisory Board endorsed the proposals to close Archers Court Maths and Computing College, Dover and agreed the issuing of a public notice to close the school so that it may be replaced by a government funded Academy.