

CABINET – 16 MAY 2006

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

ROSEBERY PRIMARY SCHOOL, LOUGHBOROUGH

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the views of the Cabinet about any proposals put forward by Rosebery Primary School parents to keep the school open, in the light of meetings between parents and members of the Cabinet on 5 April and 11 May 2006.

Recommendation

2. That Cabinet decides if it wishes to proceed with a recommendation for closure to the School Organisation Committee after considering the views expressed at the meetings with parents and any proposal received by the Director of Children and Young People's Service.

Reason for Recommendation

3. Cabinet members gave an undertaking at the meeting on 5 April that they would consider any proposal received by the Director of Children and Young People's Services from the parents which supported Rosebery Primary School being kept open.

Timetable for Decision (including Scrutiny)

4. The School Organisation Committee will meet on Friday 23 June 2006 to make a decision about proposals for Rosebery Primary School.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. The recommendations do not affect policy framework.
6. Cabinet agreed on the 31 January 2006 to consult on two options for Rosebery Primary School.
 - Option A – amalgamation with a neighbouring school;
 - Option B – Closure of Rosebery Primary School.

Resource Implications

7. There will be some financial implications dependent on the decisions made, for example capital receipts in the event of closure and capital expenditure on the provision of additional places at another school. Any costs of possible closure would be covered by capital receipts if a decision were taken to sell the building.
8. There are implications for staff at the school including the need to consult with Trade Unions on any proposed closure or amalgamation. In the unlikely event that all current staff at the school were made redundant, the cost could be in the region of £185,000. At this stage this is a rough figure. Actual costs would be refined if the School Organisation Committee decided on closure of the school when an Action Plan would be drawn up.

Circulation Under the Sensitive Issues Procedure.

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Mr. P. G. Lewis CC
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PART B

Background

9. A revised statutory notice proposing the closure of Rosebery Primary School was published on 10 May 2006, following a procedural error with the original notice published on 24 April, and will last for one month until 10 June 2006. A public meeting will be held on 17 May 2006. If Cabinet agrees to proceed with a recommendation to close, the School Organisation Committee will meet on the new date of 23 June 2006.
10. At the meeting on 5 April it was agreed that four parents would meet with the Director of Children and Young People's Service to discuss possible proposals for the long term sustainability of Rosebery Primary School.
11. The four parents met with the Director of Children and Young People's Service and the Head of School Improvement, who was acting as the education consultant for the parents on 26 April 2006. At this meeting it was agreed that the four parents should bring any proposals on the future of Rosebery Primary School to the Director of Children and Young People's Service by 8 May 2006. The Director's views on these proposals will be tabled at the meeting.

Consultation

12. A consultation on two proposals for Rosebery Primary School took place between February 2006 and 3 March 2006.

Equal Opportunities Implications.

13. The school remains open there are significant equal opportunity issues due to the inadequate standard of education at the school.
14. Pupils would be able to access a higher standard of education if the school were closed

Background Papers

Rosebery Primary School OfSTED Inspection Report
Schools Causing Concern Guidance
OfSTED Inspection Framework
Report of the Director of Children and Young People's Services (Designate) to the Cabinet on 14 March, 2006.