

COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 27TH JUNE, 2017

At 7.30 pm

in the

DESBOROUGH SUITE - TOWN HALL,

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
5.	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> In accordance with Part 2C Paragraph 9.3 of the Royal Borough Constitution, the Mayor has agreed to accept the following urgent public questions for the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 27 June 2017	3 - 4

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In accordance with Part 2C Paragraph 9.3 of the Royal Borough Constitution, the Mayor has agreed to accept the following urgent public questions for the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 27 June 2017:

1) Question submitted by David Rooney, Executive Principal of Lowbrook Academy to Councillor N. Airey, Lead Member for Children's Services

Having preferred the option of speaking freely, I respect Council's decision to allow questions only and therefore hope the answers to these questions bring clarification to parents and form part of the public record. Lowbrook is an outstanding school with a proud record of achievement. It puts children and community first and we implore the council to do the same.

The Governors and Parents are left wondering why the council believed that £1.6 million was enough to deliver the expansion scheme when the school clearly demonstrated through six current tenders from July 2016, QS estimations, executive architectural advice and national benchmarks that this figure was well below what was required?

2) Question submitted by David Rooney, Executive Principal of Lowbrook Academy to Councillor N. Airey, Lead Member for Children's Services

The engineering difficulty regarding the hall extension was identified within the first month of the scheme's development. The project proceeded with full support from all members of the steering group including a Borough Officer. The rationale was clear and based around financial and practical assumptions from our Executive Architect. The relocation of the hall subsequently became an issue 8 months past the design process and after authority had been given for pre-application. Why was this not addressed at the very beginning of the project design instead of after key milestone delivery dates?

3) Question submitted by Dominique Du Pré, Chair of Governors of Lowbrook Academy to Councillor N. Airey, Lead Member for Children's Services

Lowbrook is a school that has moved from a position of near closure to being the highest performing Academy in England. It has been at the forefront of high achievement for over a decade; the first RBWM Academy; a school that has self-funded four high quality classrooms and is consistently over-subscribed as a consequence of this best practice.)

The funding shortage was clearly identified by the Academy and steering group yet we were given full authority to formally progress this build well past key project milestone delivery dates. Why were parents led publically to believe the project viable and the school required to enter into a renegotiation process?

4) Question submitted by Dominique Du Pré, Chair of Governors of Lowbrook Academy to Councillor N. Airey, Lead Member for Children's Services

Young families move from substantial distances into our catchment, at a premium, to secure their children a place at this outstanding school. The issue of over-subscription is not new and historically we have taken bulge classes at your request and at our own will so as to meet the needs of this community.

Why was the process of a conscience/free vote used in this expansion project and why is this project often referred to as controversial when it is in the Conservative's policy and to our knowledge in principal had already been agreed?

5) Question submitted by James Spiteri, Parent Governor at Lowbrook Academy to Councillor N. Airey, Lead Member for Children's Services

Expanding the highest performing school in England clearly meets local and central government policy. In fact, the expansion of Lowbrook was publically endorsed by the Prime Minister on her website and in her election communications during her campaign. Expanding outstanding academies remains a high priority. Why do members of the Conservative Council not believe they should be expanding outstanding academies such as ours when there is a clear policy from Central Government to convert all schools to academy status and there are many examples in Windsor and Maidenhead where expansion projects in academies are currently being undertaken (e.g. Dedworth Middle School, Windsor Boys, Furze Platt Senior)?

6) Question submitted by James Spiteri, Parent Governor at Lowbrook Academy to Councillor N. Airey, Lead Member for Children's Services

Due to my professional qualifications as a Chartered Architect, I was invited to become a Governor at the School with a view to using my extensive architectural knowledge to help oversee the build design and value engineer this project. Uncertainty and lack of commitment will only escalate

My current dealings in this market indicate higher inflationary costs due to the falling value of the pound and market conditions. You must commit to this project and not risk further delays due to economic forces which are out of the school's and RBWM control so why are conditions in this paper being imposed that do not align with conventional design and build projects or any other school builds identifiable in RBWM, in particular in Recommendation item 2 the scheme proceeds no further if the additional budget of £775,000 proves to be insufficient?