



Tim Warren
Interim Operational Director
Education

Dear Parent/Stakeholder

28 April 2006

Children's Services Directorate
New Town House
Buttermarket Street
Warrington
WA1 2NJ

Our Ref: TW/kc

Re: Stockton Heath Primary School

In my previous letter I mentioned that the Council has sought advice from the DfES and we now have received a response to our letter. The first thing to say is that there is good news regarding the financial flexibility required to implement the project. The DfES have advised that they:

"Intend to allow (us) as much flexibility as possible, consistent with (us) achieving the original objectives set out for the scheme. These are, to provide modern, suitable and sufficient accommodation for Stockton Heath Primary School".

As you know the council has already come to the conclusion that the best way forward is to replace the existing buildings with a brand new building on the same site. Planning permission for a proposal to achieve this by September 2007 was refused in March. Accordingly advice was sought from the DfES on 3 options to move the project forward. The options and the advice from the DfES are detailed below in no particular order:

- a) Refurbishment of the existing school and replacement of the separate building

The DfES response is as follows:

"Given your statement that the outcomes for the project would not be met, it would, on the face of it, be very difficult for us to agree for departmental funds to be used for this option. Unless, therefore, you can provide additional funds from the Council's resources which would ensure the initial outcomes set were met, it is unlikely that we could support this option".

Norma Cadwallader
Interim Strategic Director
Children's Services

Chief Executive
David Whitehead

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contact please dial (01925) 444400

- b) Submission of a further planning application to support a new building

The DfES response is as follows:

"If you can demonstrate to us that this application, if accepted, would meet the original objectives of the scheme, then we would be prepared to fund this option. Accordingly, we would either allow you to retain funds you have already received, or earmark funds to re-allocate to you in accordance with your revised timetable."

- c) Build a new school building on an alternative site within the area

The DfES response is as follows:

"This option seems feasible. Again, we would support this option provided it achieves the original objectives of this scheme. I assume, when I say this, that relocation of the school to an alternative site would still benefit the children in the original catchment area".

The advice received from the DfES will now be considered through the due political process and we will then advise you of our proposed course of action. The full text of the letter from the DfES is available should anyone wish to see it. I would like to thank you for your patience.

Yours sincerely

Tim Warren

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Interim Operational Director of Education

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