

BOROUGH OF POOLE

COUNCIL

23 SEPTEMBER 2008

**PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE ROSSMORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS AN
ACADEMY WITHIN THE “BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE (BSF)”
PROGRAMME: REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Council approval to the Expression of Interest to include Rossmore College as an Academy within the BSF Programme for the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

2. DECISIONS REQUIRED

- 2.1 That Council be recommended to

- (i) approve the Expression of Interest (EOI) to include Rossmore Community College as an Academy within the “Building Schools for the Future” Programme to the Department for Children, Schools and Families; and
- (ii) authorise the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People to sign the EOI on behalf of the Council.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Cabinet considered this Report at its Meeting on 9 September 2008 and I was pleased that it secured unanimous support.
- 3.2 The Government had announced that the Academy’s Building Programme was to be more closely integrated with the “Building Schools for the Future” Programme. The aims of the Academy’s Programme was to raise educational standards and to reduce the effects of economic and social deprivation. The Vision for an academy should focus on how it would address underperformance and educational deprivation through effective and innovative approaches.
- 3.3 I explained to Cabinet that Academies were all ability, state funded schools established and managed by sponsors from a wide range of backgrounds, including high performing schools, colleges, universities, individual philanthropists, businesses, the voluntary sector and faith communities. Academies are established with the backing of the Local Authority, which also has a seat on the Governing Board. Academies are not maintained by the

Local Authority but they collaborate closely with it and with other schools in the area.

- 3.4 The Governing Body and the Headteacher have responsibility for managing the Academy. All Academies were bound by the same Admissions Code, Special Education Need Code of Practice and Exclusion Guidance as other state funded schools.
- 3.5 I outlined the context for proposing Rossmore Community College as an Academy and informed Cabinet that the proposal had the full support of the Governing Body and Headteacher. It had been necessary to review the Vision and needs of Rossmore Community College and this had been undertaken in partnership with the proposed sponsors, the Church of England Diocese, Bournemouth University and the Local Authority. I informed Cabinet that, subject to all necessary consultation and agreements, the opening date for the Rossmore Academy, should Council approve this proposal, would be September 2010 in the existing building and September 2013 in the new refurbished building.
- 3.6 The Report to Cabinet is enclosed for Members' information, which gives greater detail and context to the proposal.
- 3.7 I urge you to support the recommendations.

Councillor Tony Woodcock
Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People