

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

18 OCTOBER 2016

ITEM NO 14 - SCHOOLS THAT WORK FOR EVERYONE

Councillor Jones to move:

This council notes the launch of the government consultation "Schools that work for everyone" on 12 September 2016, which invites responses to the Department for Education by 12 December 2016.

This council also notes that the ambition of the green paper is to promote a discussion on how to ensure that "every child should have access to a good school place."

The council resolves:

1. to make a submission to the DfE as part of the consultation exercise within the specified deadline.
2. that in response to the four key areas of the consultation, this council disagrees that the way forward is to:
 - Use public money to induce Independent fee-paying schools to create more school places, or else lose their charitable status;
 - Bully Universities in to opening schools, or else risk capping their tuition fees;
 - Use public money to assist in the expansion of selective schools;
 - Allow faith schools to become mono-cultural institutions.
3. that the best way to ensure that every child in Reading can have access to a good school place is for there to be:
 - A fairer funding arrangement for all schools in Reading;
 - Public money to be made available for the recruitment and retention of school staff in Reading;
 - An end to the needless distraction of the forced academisation of schools in Reading;
 - Public money to be made available to support the council's raising attainment strategy (known as the Reading First Partnership).