

OPPOSITION BUSINESS PAPER – COUNCIL 9 NOVEMBER 2011

Supporting the formation of Free Schools in Enfield

A Free school is a school funded by the taxpayer, non-selective and free to attend, not controlled by the local authority, but harnessing the enthusiasm of local people who want to be more involved with the delivery of education.

Background

In our last opposition business we focused on practical ways to improve the number of school places available, however it is also important to offer good quality and diverse educational choices to students and parents. The free schools programme presents the opportunity for this Council to not only encourage the creation of much needed school places, but to see increases in educational opportunities for all, whilst driving up standards.

This opposition business seeks to set out the direction Enfield Council should take to give parents more choice in the education of their children and support the delivery of better and more diverse education for all.

Recommendations

We submit that the following recommendations are put to this Council meeting:

1. That Enfield Council undertakes to support applications by parents, interested persons/groups to establish free schools within the borough.
2. That Enfield Council must prioritise and encourage Meetings with potential organisations/groups with a view to creating new schools in the borough to help alleviate a shortage of school places and improve education standards.
3. This Council, while valuing the excellent work and good results produced by many schools in the borough, recognises that the Free School programme also creates the opportunity to revitalise the educational system where poor standards and lack of parental choice exist.
4. That the Council seeks to encourage the creation of free schools by highlighting suitable sites and advertising their availability, producing a literature pack for parents/groups interested in this option.
5. That this Council undertakes not to jeopardise the opportunity for the creation of free schools by selling off property and sites suitable for free

schools, particularly where they are identified by parents as a possible site.

6. That this Council assign the responsibility for delivering on this agenda to the portfolio for the Director of Schools and Children's Services.