

## SUMMONS ITEM 11 (i)

### FULL COUNCIL 16<sup>th</sup> May 2005

#### **Motion selected for debate by Councillor Bob Blackman, Leader of the Conservative Group.**

##### Proposed City Academy

This Council notes the Labour administration in Brent is planning to support yet another City Academy in Brent and that secret negotiations are being conducted without even bothering to consult local residents or local Councillors. This Council further notes that the proposed site is the London Transport playing fields which are used widely by the local community for recreational sports. This Council further notes that there is a potential need to expand the number of school places available but that this could be accommodated by expanding existing schools. This Council further notes that the demand for school places is being created by the new developments of high-rise accommodation in the Wembley area.

This Council believes that a potential expansion of Copland School could be accommodated within the recently approved plans, that Preston Manor could be allowed to expand and that Wembley High School could also expand. This Council believes that the expansion of already popular schools is a far more sensible route to follow rather than the experimentation with children's futures under a City Academy.

This Council notes the reports that have now come out about City Academies which should mean that Brent does not encourage the waste of a huge amount of resources when it has now been proven that these Academies are not promoting the best interests of young people and that they are damaging other schools around them.

This Council understands the growing concerns of the teaching unions, Residents Associations and local residents as the administration is considering siting a new City Academy on existing playing fields meaning a loss of playing fields for local people when expansion of existing schools could help solve the problem. This Council rejects any proposal to build any form of new school on the existing London Transport playing fields. This Council believes that the need is being largely created by the Quintain development and that Brent Council has a vision for a mixed use of the Wembley Stadium area including creating this area as a centre for learning. This Council

therefore believes that any new school should be accommodated within the Wembley Stadium Estate on the land which has not yet been the subject of planning permission.

This Council notes that flagship Academy Schools have been named and shamed among the worst schools in England. The latest league tables are an embarrassment for the Government and teachers, Leaders and parents are calling for this experiment with children's futures to be scrapped as it is benefiting no one and huge amounts of resources are being wasted.

This Council believes that urgent action should be taken to halt any future plans for a further City Academy to be sited in Wembley and calls upon the Chief Executive to scrap these plans for Brent whilst bringing forward new plans to allow existing successful schools to expand to cope with the additional pupil numbers and negotiating with Quintain for any new school to be located within the Wembley Stadium Estate in keeping with Brent Council's vision of creating a new mixed use environment.