

SUMMONS ITEM 9 (i)

FULL COUNCIL 31st October 2005

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

School places

This council notes with alarm that more than 200 school children were without school places at the beginning of this academic year.

This council condemns the gross failure of the Labour Administration to carry out their duty to provide sufficient school places.

This council believes that urgent action is required to ensure that the current crisis is resolved and that a medium and long term plan is put in place to provide the necessary places for the future.

This council believes that the priority must be to resolve the existing crisis, expand existing schools and only then consider setting up new schools.

This council therefore instructs the Director of Children and Families to produce an urgent report on the status of the number of children without places at the start of the academic year, the current situation and measures to ensure that places are provided.

This council further instructs the Director of Children and Families to report on proposals to expand existing schools as a priority including Preston Manor, Copland and Queens Park with a review on the extent of expansion possible at existing secondary and primary schools. The review is to include the likely time scales required for expansion, the possible land available and estimates of the costs involved.

This council further instructs the Director of Children and Families to bring forward subsequent proposals for an increase in the number of schools in light of the expansion capability of existing schools to accommodate the predicted increase in pupil numbers.