

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

COUNCIL MEETING – 29 JANUARY 2014

Question by: Ms Rosie Wait

To: Cabinet Member for Education

QUESTION

“How does the Cabinet Member for Education justify spending a minimum of £4.5m of local money to forcibly close what is recognised as one of the best primary schools in the country, which has an acclaimed and proven track record with some of the most disadvantaged pupils in the borough?”

ANSWER

The question is misleading. The Council is not spending £4.5M to forcibly close a school. It is investing £3.8M in a structurally sound building in which to continue and expand another school, and incurring an estimated £600,000 in temporary accommodation and re-locating other services. It is avoiding capital expenditure in maintaining the school it intends to close, which it believes can be successfully amalgamated with the school receiving the investment. This is a matter of value for money.

The Council believes that opportunities for all pupils will be enhanced by the proposals. Both existing schools are high-performing and the Council is taking a long-term view of the opportunity to build on this success in a cost effective way.