

AMBEC (Pioneer Trust)

Results from the Public Consultation Exercise

A total of 52 forms were returned to the College following their distribution to a wide range of Consultees. Four categories of respondents could be identified from the forms that were returned: Parents; Staff; Third Party Consultees (eg The Co-operative Group; Other (where the identity could not be confirmed).

The numbers in each category are shown below and a designation as either positive or negative given based essentially on the answers to the first question. In almost all cases there is little doubt as to whether the response is positive or negative.

Consultee Category	Positive	Negative	Total
Parent	13	-	13
Staff	4	29	33
Third Party	1	-	1
Other	1	4	5
Grand Total	19	33	52

A further analysis was performed based on the negative and positive responses to identify the issues that underlay the responses and to rank them in some order.

The negative views, primarily from the staff are given below:

- Worries re Terms & Conditions changing
- Loss of links to Local Authority
- No need for Foundation status achieve benefits without this
- Proposed partners seen as positive
- Request for more information
- Concerns regarding composition of Governing Body
- Co-operative Group running College! (Different priorities)
- Need to explain Synergistic relationships, Individual portfolios
- Advantages of Trust status questioned
- See Competition not Co-operation from Trust status

- Non democratic process of appointing Trustees
- Introduction of Selection

In many cases there is a lack of understanding over just what acquiring a Trust would mean. For example the belief by several respondents that the Co-operative Group would run the College and be purely business focused!

The positive views, from the parents are given below:

- More information requested re proposals
- More information on Governors
- Want benefits but not at extra cost

The overall message is that more information is required, either in response to some of the misconceptions seen from the staff responses or to give parents/carers the additional information they need. Analysis of the staff responses did not reveal any issues that fundamentally challenge the proposals. There is a need to respond to the specific issues that have been raised but in most cases this requires further explanation and information to address their understandable concerns.

Following the receipt of the responses a full Governing Body meeting was held on Monday 10th September 2007 to consider the results and to decide whether to proceed to the next stage of the process. There were no issues raised as part of the Consultation process which fundamentally challenged the proposed process of acquiring a Trust potentially. It was agreed that the process be continued and that the process of "Publish Statutory Proposals" would take place, starting once the appropriate data had been assembled.

Issued by: B Jacobs

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