

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

TEACHERS' CONSULTATIVE FORUM

At a meeting of the Teachers' Consultative Forum held at 1000 hours on Monday, 15th November, 2010, in Room 190 of the Education Office, Margaret Street, there were present

(c) Moseley School

BANUT explained that it remained dissatisfied with the explanation, or lack of it, for Moseley and Queensbridge Schools each seeking foundation status rather than remaining as community schools. It claimed that local authority officers were encouraging the schools to seek foundation status and that a person speaking on behalf of the schools had made pejorative comments about the local authority. It complained about the way in which consultations with parents had been arranged. It alleged that the move for foundation status included an element of corruption. It said that it would write to the Strategic Director about a climate of fear amongst staff and ask for an investigation and for the move to foundation status to be halted pending the outcome of that investigation.

BANASUWT said that it too had been told of fear amongst the staff of the school and questioned the promotion of foundation status.

The Strategic Director said that the teachers' associations must write to him with evidence of their concerns if they wished him to investigate. He objected to some of the language used by BANUT in expressing its concerns, describing it as intimidating. BANUT confirmed that it would write to the Strategic Director and added that it would continue to voice its concerns if it wished to do so.

(e) Investigations conducted by officers

Ms. Hulson said that she hoped to bring proposals for future investigations to the Staffing Working Party in December. BANASUWT and BANUT asked what was happening in some current cases and complained that they were not kept informed of progress. Ms. Hulson undertook to report to the Staffing Working Party on the following day. Mrs. Hughes explained that in two of these cases fresh allegations had prolonged the investigations and that in one case legal advice had proved necessary. The Strategic Director confirmed that he had received an audit report related to one of the cases but explained that it might not be appropriate for the teachers' associations to be informed of the contents of such reports in every case.

BANUT asked why Audit had been asked not to review the financial management standards at a school. The Strategic Director replied that in view of all that was happening at this particular school he did not wish it to be subject to a routine check of compliance with standards. He assured the teachers' associations that any concerns about financial management at the school would be investigated.