HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 MAY 2005

PRESENT

Schools
Dr Dena Coleman
Richard Jameson
Paul Rosen
Michael Taylor

Church of England
Alick Burge
Roger Martin

Roman Catholic Diocese
Paul Goggins
Sally Livesey

HCC
Robert Gordon [Chairman]
Clare Berry
Derek Hills
Richard Roberts
Tanis Kent
Elam Singham

Learning and Skills Council
David Tofts

In attendance:	David Lloyd	County Councillor
	Dinah Tuck	Secretary to the Committee
	Lindsay Martin	Head of School Access

Members of SOC were reminded of the need to keep an open mind on the issues under discussion, unfettered by previous considerations.

1. Apologies, membership and attendance

Alan Gray had resigned from the Schools group.
Robert Gordon, Clare Berry, Richard Roberts, Richard Smith, Tanis Kent, Elam Singham and Aislinn Lee have been appointed to the LEA group.

Apologies had been received from Alan Scouller from the RC group.
Apologies had been received from Jon Reynolds from the CE group.
Apologies had been received from Peter Fielden from the schools group.
Apologies were received from Aislinn Lee from the LEA group.
Derek Hills attended as alternate for Richard Smith [LEA group].

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2005

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2005 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters arising

The SOC agreed that in line with DfES guidance the approval granted on 17 March 2005 to the Hertsmere Jewish High School Trust for a new voluntary aided school for 1000 boys and girls mainly between the ages of 11-18 with effect from September 2006 be subject to planning permission being obtained by September 2008.

4. Enlargement of St Clement Danes VA School, Chorleywood

The Chair of Governors and Deputy Head of St Clement Danes School attended for this item.
The Chairman welcomed them and explained the procedures by which the SOC operated.
The Chairman indicated that he had expressed views or been party to discussions on this matter previously but would address the issues afresh at this meeting.
Alick Burge declared a personal interest and withdrew from any discussion of vote on this item.

The LEA indicated their support for this proposal which would address the basic need for secondary school places in the area.
SOC members sought clarification on how the amended admission rules would secure more places for Hertfordshire pupils.
Following discussion all five groups present voted to approve the school's proposal.

The SOC therefore approved the enlargement of St Clement Danes VA School by increasing the admission number of the school from 178 to 208 with effect from September 2006.

5. Establishment of a nursery class at Bayford VC Primary School

The SOC welcomed the Head and a Foundation governor from Bayford VC Primary School and noted that the school had applied for the Herts Quality Standard for its early years provision.
Following discussion all five groups present voted to approve the proposal by the school.
The SOC therefore approved the establishment of a nursery class for 14 part time pupils at Bayford VC Primary School, Hertford with effect from 1 September 2005

6. South Stevenage Primary reorganisation

The SOC noted that the LEA had determined to create a federation of two primary schools, one for 210 pupils plus a 15 place nursery on the Burydale Junior site and one for 420 pupils plus a 30 place nursery on the Longmeadow site with effect from 1 September 2005.
These proposals include the discontinuance of Longmeadow Infant and Nursery School, Longmeadow Juniors, Shephall Green Infant and Nursery and Burydale Junior schools with effect from 31 August 2005.
The SOC was informed that Heads have been appointed for the two new schools and interviews are to be held on 27 May for the Head of the Federation.

7. New DfES guidance

The SOC noted the draft guidance issued by the DfES on 1 April 2005 which is due to come into effect in July 2005.

8. Future meetings

The following meeting date was confirmed.

10am on Wednesday 6 July 2005
Amalgamation of Holy Rood RC Infant and Junior Schools in Watford
Establishment of nursery class at Tonwell St Mary's VC Primary school.

The meeting closed at 10.20am