**HALEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

At a Special Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 29th March 2016 (6.00 pm), at Arncliffe Sports & Community Centre, Arncliffe Road, Halewood, the following Members were:-

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

1. Harvey (Chairman)

K Dalton N Hogg

Ms. C Harris I S Hamilton B Swann Mrs. E Finneran D Perry S Ball

**Also in attendance:-**

G MacKenzie, Town Manager

Members of the Public – 0

**XXX. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Cllr D Samuels and Ms C Rose.

**XXX. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

The following declarations of interest were received:-

Cllr. N Hogg - Agenda Item 3 – Proposal to remove the sixth form from Halewood Academy

**XXX. PROPOSAL TO REMOVE THE SIXTH FORM FROM HALEWOOD ACADEMY**

The Town Manager advised Members of the Town Council of the content of a letter received from Halewood Academy dated 2nd March 2016 advising that the Governing Body of the Academy had voted in favour of a proposal to remove the sixth form provision from the school.

A consultation period, now extended until 17th April 2016, allowed Halewood Town Council and others, should they wish, to respond to the proposal.

Members noted that there had been considerable public and press interest in the proposal and that this meeting had been called for Members to debate the matter and formulate a response on behalf of the Town Council.

Following a constructive debate, the following were agreed as summarising the Town Council’s concerns:

* Halewood Town Council fully recognises the autonomy of the Trustees and of the Governing Body of the Academy in making this proposal. Nevertheless the Town Council is concerned at the apparent ‘mixed messages’ contained within the documentation..
* The Members of the Town Council fully support the parents and carers of pupils at the Academy in seeking clarification on a number of questions and issues surrounding the decision making process, not least of which were the alternatives considered before the Governors voted in favour of removing the sixth form and the detailed cost basis for the decision.
* Members of the Town Council would seek an assurance from the Academy that, in the event of the proposal being implemented, any current year 12 students who wish to complete their sixth form studies at Halewood Academy will be allowed to do so. Furthermore, that financial assistance will be available for Halewood Academy students forced to undertake their sixth form studies elsewhere.
* In relation to travel and the possibility that students are forced to travel out of the Borough for their sixth form education, Members of the Town Council are particularly concerned about the effect on students with additional needs who cannot travel independently and specifically, what support will be available to them?
* In the event of closure, Members of the Town Council are most concerned about the impact on the long term sustainability, growth and stability of the township

It was moved by Cllr. A Harvey and seconded by Cllr. B Swann, and

RESOLVED:- (a) That the Town Manager draft a response to the consultation incorporating the concerns listed above, such draft to be agreed with the Chairman of the Town Council

 (b) That, prior to issue, the final draft be circulated to all Members for comment.

Meeting closed at 7:20 p.m.

Signed ....................................... Date ...............................................