

NOTICE OF MOTION**LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP
AMENDMENT****GOVERNMENT 'LAND TRANSFER SCHEME'**

Insert a new paragraph 5 as shown below in bold and italics:

“Recently the Department for Education identified the playing fields situated between BHASVIC and Cardinal Newman as the most suitable permanent location for the King's Free School. The recommendation takes advantage of recent legislation allowing the government to transfer council-owned land to an academy or free school. This transfer does not compensate the council for the loss of land.

This council notes that Government ministers and/or private consultants paid to source the cheapest location do not take into account the value of the land to the local community.

In keeping with the Olympic legacy, playing fields and green spaces need to be protected to encourage sports participation, teamwork and an appreciation of the local environment. Studies conducted by the Greenwich Teaching Primary Care Trust show a lack of access to green space is a main factor in predicting poor mental health and vitality.

This council believes that the government's 'Land Transfer Scheme' undermines councils, and obstructs the strategic delivery of new school places. We remain unconvinced of the necessity of a role for central government in deciding the locations for the local provision of maintained schools.

“It therefore supports the proposals contained in its policy document ‘One Nation Localism’ published by the Labour Party to resurrect local accountability within the schools system with recognition that there is a role for Local Authorities in the commissioning of new school provision to meet need and ensure access for all”

Therefore, this Council calls on the Government:

- To stop appropriating council-owned land without recompense or consideration of its value to the wider community;
- To instead reinstate councils' funding for building new schools;

- To allow local authorities to identify suitable sites for educational purposes and not have them imposed by central government.”

Proposed by: Cllr Pissaridou

Seconded by: Cllr Gilbey

Supported by: Cllrs Mitchell, Morgan, Carden, Lepper, Hamilton, Robins, Wilson, Fitch, Farrow and Marsh.