

# minutes



Meeting EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Tuesday, 28th June 2005 (commencing at 10.30 am)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

## COUNCILLORS

Kevan Wakefield (Chair)

A	Steve Carroll	R Jackson
	Jim Creamer	Peter D Prebble
	Sybil Fielding	Mark Spencer
	Glynn Gilfoyle	Yvonne Woodhead
	Ellie Lodziak	A Brian Wombwell
	Philip Owen	

## Statutory Added Members

A Mr K Daly  
A Mr D Richards JP  
Ms P Burbidge (Parent Governor)  
Ms L Wooding (Parent Governor)

## Non-Voting Co-optees

A	Mr L Jefferies	(Teacher Trades Unions)
A	Mrs G Lane	(School Governors)
A	Mr N Lewis	(F E sector)
A	Mr A McAllister	(Ethnic Minority Communities)
	Dr B Ramsey	(School Governors)
	Ms L Regan	(Teacher Trades Unions)
	Mr A Ross	(Teacher Trades Unions)
	Karen Brookes	(Head Teachers)
	David Cokeham	(Head Teachers)

## Others invited to attend

Ms T Carnachan (Support Staff Unions)

## **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor M Storey  
“ M Suthers  
“ Mrs K Cutts

## **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

The appointment by the County Council of Councillor Kevan Wakefield as Chair and Councillor Martin Suthers as Vice-Chair of the Select Committee was noted.

## **MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

It was reported that the following changes had been made to the membership of the Committee since the report was written. Councillor Martin Suthers had been replaced by Councillor R Jackson; Karen Brooks had been appointed to replace Mr J Wilson and David Cokeham had been appointed to the vacancy as non-voting co-optee Head Teacher representatives.

It was agreed that the revised membership of the Select Committee be noted.

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 5 April 2005 having been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Brian Wombwell  
Mr K Daley  
Mr D Richards  
Mr L Jeffries  
Mrs G Lane

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None.

## **CALL-IN OF DECISION ED/2005/00042**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Scrutiny on a Call-In request of delegated decision ED/2005/00042 concerning the re-nomination of local education authority governors to school governing bodies as a result of re-constitution.

The Committee was asked to determine the validity of the Call-In Request in terms of the constitution.

Following a show of hands and on the casting vote of the Chair, it was decided that the decision was not capable of being called in.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ANNUAL REVIEW**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Scrutiny.

Di Morton, Assistant Director (Strategic Support Services) in the Education Department made a presentation to the Select Committee. She indicated that Nottinghamshire was the 11<sup>th</sup> largest local authority and served 181,500 children and young people (aged 0-19) including approximately 5,000 children and young people from Nottingham City. 4% come from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. There are over 360 schools, including 48 secondary schools and 11 special schools. The percentage of pupils entitled to free school meals is broadly in line with national averages but percentage of pupils with statement of SEN is half the national average, reflecting levels of high inclusion.

The local education service consists of the Education Department and the schools. In Nottinghamshire the two work in close partnership – based on honesty and integrity. Schools have a high degree of autonomy and recent legislation gives them the option of increasing their independence from the LEA. The Education Service has a wide range of statutory and non-statutory partners to work with including the Learning and Skills Council, Connexions, the dioceses, the voluntary sector, Police and health services. The statutory duties of the LEA were originally set out in statutory guidance in 2001 and are SEN, access, school improvement and strategic management.

Di Morton indicated that Nottinghamshire was funded well below the national average – currently 134 out of 148. The central costs for the Education Department are low – the cost per pupil to deliver the statutory duties is £40 compared with the average for shire counties of £47 and nationally £56. The cost per pupil of the total LEA budget is £388 compared with £405 for other shire counties. The Comprehensive Performance Assessment in 2004 judged education in Nottinghamshire to be excellent and given its low costs it therefore provides very good value for money. The annual Audit Commission survey of schools shows 51% of functions to be in the top quartile nationally with year on year improvements. In the feedback from schools four areas of improvements were identified as support for gifted/talented, efficiency of SEN statements and behaviour support.

She indicated that the priorities of the Strategic Plan 2001/06 were as follows:-

- (1) School Improvement
- (2) Social Inclusion and community and economic regeneration and lifelong learning
- (3) Allocation and use of resources and provision of school places
- (4) The efficiency and effectiveness of the Education Department

She indicated that the current issues facing the Local Education Authority were integrated childrens services, the DFES' 5 year strategy including foundation schools, school improvement partners, the expansion of popular schools and IEPs; and changes to school and LEA budgets – 3 year budgeting and ring fenced budgeting. She stated that Nottinghamshire put 4.8% above the national formula into education funding.

The terms of reference and annual review were noted.

### **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to the report which identified a range of issues for potential scrutiny. In addition Members suggested the following:-

- Childrens Act – an update on the implications.
- Risk Management – theft from schools.
- Pupils behaviour linked with exclusions.
- Travel to School – School Travel Plans.
- change of catchments and the effect on school transport.
- Appointment of Governors and their retention.
- SEN statements.
- Reorganisation of secondary schools in Newark.
- Safety of pupils getting to school.

It was agreed that the Chair prepare a draft work programme for consideration at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.25 am.

### **CHAIR**

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