

Time commenced – 6.00pm  
Time finished – 7.55pm

## EDUCATION COMMISSION 4 JULY 2005

Present: Councillor Jones (in the Chair)  
Councillors P Berry, Higginbottom, Khan MacDonald,  
Skelton, Willitts and Wynn

Co-opted Members: John Honey (Catholic Church Diocese)

Also in Attendance Councillor Allen

### Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Devendra (Parent Governor), David Edwards (Church of England Diocese), Tony Walsh (Derby REC), Dave Wilkinson (NASUWT).

### Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

### Declarations of Interest

Name	Type of interest	Reason
Councillor MacDonald	Personal	Governor – Lees Brook Community Sports College
	Personal	Member of National Union of Teachers
Councillor Wynn	Personal	Chair Governor – Beckett School
		Chair Governor – Bemrose School
		Wife a teacher employed by the LEA
		Governor – Nightingale Junior School
Councillor Higginbottom	Personal	Vice Chair of Governors – Ashgate Primary School

## 01/05 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 4 April 2005 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendment:

Page 3 to amend the first sentence as follows:

'The proposed policy addressed the key issues by replacing a meeting with the **Education (Awards and Transport) Appeals** Committee with an officer review.'

## Items for Discussion

### 02/05 Adult Learning

The Commission received a presentation from Lesley Whitney – Assistant Director, Lifelong Learning & Community, on the changes taking place in adult learning. Apart from a small amount of income from course fees the Adult Learning Service secured all of its funding from the Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council (LSC) through either the Further Education (FE) fund for qualification courses or the Adult and Community Learning (ACL) fund for non-qualification or leisure courses. Nationally, the Learning and Skills Council is focusing its priorities on three areas:

- 14 – 19 year olds
- Adult basic skills
- Workforce development.

FE funding is based on target numbers being reached for qualification courses. Each learner has a cash value based on the type of course they are attending, their retention on it and the achievement/qualification resulting from it.

Until July 2006, the funding for ACL leisure courses was provided via a block grant with no specific criteria attached to it in terms of activity funded, the achievement of targets or retention levels on courses. In 2006/07 the funding of ACL will be changing from a block grant allocation to a system of formula funding which will be phased in over three years. Although the LSC was still consulting about these changes, it was anticipated that different funding arrangements would be applied to “first steps” learning and “learning for personal development”. “First steps” learning which was offered as an entry point to adult learning or to develop skills for work would be funded more generously than “learning for personal development” that was primarily intended as learning for enjoyment or personal enrichment. The anticipated impact of this was that the Council may need to consider a substantial increase in the fees for “personal development” courses next year.

Further information would be provided once the LCS had completed its consultation and announced the new funding methodology.

**Resolved to note the presentation.**

## 03/05 Integrating Children's Services

Members received a presentation from Rachel Dickinson Assistant Director - Integrating Children's Services on the Integrating Children's Services agenda. Members received a presentation that had recently been delivered to staff from all agencies. Rachel advised that by April 2006, details of the joint commissioning, governance, the appointment of the Director of Children's Services and the Implementation Plan will have to be agreed and Integrated Children's Services needs to be fully integrated by 2008.

Councillor Wynn stated that a governor representative should be included in the reference group. Andrew Flack added that this issue would be discussed with the governors' liaison group shortly.

Members thanked Rachel for her interesting and informative presentation and asked that further updates be brought to future meetings of the Commission.

**Agreed to note the report.**

## 04/05 Developing the Use of Performance Eye

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services asking members to consider the action it wished to take in monitoring the performance under its area of responsibility. Mahroof Hussain, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer, advised the Commission that during the past year, the Commission had been introduced to the use of Performance Eye to monitor services. There had been suggestions that the Commission's use of Performance Eye could to some extent duplicate the performance work of the Council Cabinet and also that it may not be representative of some of the service areas.

The Scrutiny Management Commission had suggested that the Commission may wish to designate a member as the Performance Eye Champion to develop expertise in the field and take the lead on Performance Management issues. The Co-ordination Team would provide support to the Performance Eye Champion.

Mahroof advised that the Scrutiny Management Commission had also suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair consider the indicators at their pre-meeting and ask the relevant Chief Officer to come to the meeting to respond to any issues on any red indicators.

**Resolved**

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To appoint Councillor Higginbottom as the Performance Eye Champion for the Education Commission.**
- 3. To present the Performance Eye Indicators to the Chair and Vice Chair at the pre-meetings of the Commission to determine which issues will be discussed at the full meeting and the relevant Chief Officers who need to be invited to respond to these issues.**

## 05/05 Overview and Scrutiny Work Objectives and Work Planning for 2005/06

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services asking them to consider objectives and work planning for 2005/06. Mahroof Hussain advised the Commission that the 2004/05 annual report at the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Commission set out the following objectives for 2005/06.

1. To improve the engagement between Cabinet and the Scrutiny Commissions.
2. For the Commissions to increase their involvement in scrutiny.
3. For the Commission's to review their work processes with a view to improving outcomes and the linkages to Council priorities.
4. For the Commissions to identify the skills needed by Chairs and Members to deliver effective scrutiny and prepare training programmes designed to address any skill shortages they identified.

It was suggested that the Commission consider and agree the action it would take in order to meet the annual report objectives.

Councillor Willitts suggested that whatever topic review was started it should be agreed that all work be finished by the end of April 2006 so it did not continue into the next municipal year where new members would possibly be on the Commission, who had not been involved in the earlier work.

Members considered items for the work programme and Councillor Jones asked members to feed further ideas straight to Mahroof Hussain, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer, for him to include on the work programme and bring to the next meeting.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## 06/05 To appoint three Members of the Commission onto the Corporate Parenting Joint Sub Commission

The Commission were asked to consider nominations from the Commission for the Corporate Parenting Sub Commission for 2005/06 municipal year.

**Resolved to appoint Councillors Jones, MacDonald and Wynn from the Education Commission onto the Corporate Parenting Joint Sub Commission for 2005/06.**

## 07/05 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

### **Inspection of the Youth Service**

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Education asking them to comment on the inspection of the Youth Service report that was approved by Council Cabinet on 14 June 2005. Members were advised that during the inspection week, five inspectors carried out direct observation of a sample of youth work in a range of settings. The inspection found that the Council provided a good youth service where the strengths outweighed the weaknesses. It also showed that the service represented good value for money.

**Resolved to note the report and ask for an update on progress with recommendations in Spring 2006.**

### **08/05 Council Cabinet Forward Plan**

The Commission identified the following items on the Forward Plan for consideration at a future meeting.

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Decision Matter</b>
123/04	Consultation on the Re-designation of Special Schools
139/04	Strategy for Planning Primary School places

Chair of the next ensuing meeting of this Commission  
At which these Minutes were signed