

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 8.05pm

EDUCATION COMMISSION 5 APRIL 2004

Present: Councillor Wynn (in the Chair)
Councillors Ahern, Chera, J Hickson, Hird,
Latham, MacDonald and Winter

Co-opted Members: Mr Ian Samways
Mr John Honey
Mr David Edwards
Mr Tom Johnston

In Attendance Mr K Cullen (NASUWT)
Councillor Allen

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

Declarations of Interest

Name	Type of interest	Reason
Councillor Ahern	Personal	Governor – Becket School Member of the AEU
Councillor Chera	Personal	Governor – Sinfin Secondary Community School
	Personal	Member of UNISON
	Personal	Member of the Sikh temple
Councillor J Hickson	Personal	Governor – Etwall Primary School

Councillor Latham	Personal and prejudicial	In all matters connected to the Education PFI Grouped Schools bid, by virtue of her husband's professional interest.
Councillor MacDonald	Personal Personal	Governor – Lees Brook Community Sports College 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
Mr BR Bubber	Personal	Governor – Peartree Infant School Trustee at the Hindu temple
Mr D Edwards	Personal	Chair Governor – St James Infants and Vice Chair Governor - St James Junior Schools
Mr J Honey	Personal	Head teacher and Governor St Georges Catholic Primary School
Mr T Johnston	Personal	Vice Chair Governor – Murray Park School Chair Governor – St. Clare's School
Councillor Winter	Personal	Governor – Mickleover Primary School

63/03 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Commission held on 23 February 2004 were accepted as a true record.

Items For Discussion

64/03 Silverhill Primary School Buildings Issues Update

The Commission considered an oral report from the Director of Education which set out the sequence of events in relation to Silverhill Primary School, and correspondence sent out to parents was circulated for information. It was noted that the whole event was being investigated by the Health and Safety Executive. It was noted that Health Authority representatives had been present at a series of meetings with parents to try and allay fears. It was reported that there had been no recent significant exposures / releases of asbestos in city schools. The Institute of Occupational Medicine had done a risk assessment on the asbestos exposure and they were recommending that no action should be taken to monitor health of children, as the risk was below the level of concern. The school was likely to remain closed until May 10 and measures had been put in place for the Year 6 pupils to take their SATS exams at Murray Park School.

Councillor L Allen attended the meeting to answer any questions the Commission may have, he reported that other schools in the area had volunteered space to enable the children from Silverhill Primary to continue their education. He also commended the professionalism of the staff from Silverhill Primary in their help for getting the children back into education as quickly as possible.

It was suggested that 'schools health and safety' could be a possible future topic review.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report.**
- 2 To recommend the next Education Commission to consider 'school health and safety' as a possible topic review for the future.**
- 3 To formally thank both the staff at Silverhill Primary School and the schools which had volunteered spaces to enable the children to continue their education.**
- 4 To receive a report on the outcome of the health and safety executive investigation at the appropriate time.**

65/03 Teaching Assistants

The Commission considered an oral report from the Director of Education which gave details of a proposed settlement to be offered to Teaching Assistants, which would be considered by full Council at its meeting on 21

April 2004. The settlement would be recommended to governing bodies for implementation.

Resolved to note the report.

66/03 Expression of Interest for Building Schools for the Future

The Commission considered an Expression of Interest in 'Building Schools for the Future' in Derby city which had been submitted to the Department for Education and Skills.

Resolved to note the Expression of Interest.

67/03 Parent Governor Representation on Education Commission

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services which set out the requirements for the election of parent governors required by the Schools Standards and Frameworks Act 1998.

Resolved

- 1 To note the arrangements for the election of two new parent governors to be co-opted members of the Commission.**
- 2 To approve the continuation of Mr Samways and Mr Johnston in the work of the Education Commission until the completion of the School Place Planning Topic Review.**

68/03 LGA Conference

It was reported that the LGA conference would take place on 28 April 2004.

Resolved to note the arrangements for the LGA conference.

69/03 Update on School Place Planning Topic Review

Rob Davison, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator, reported that David Waxman, former Education Officer and Teacher, had been appointed to complete the topic review on School Place Planning. David Waxman attended the meeting to meet members of the Commission. The report would be presented to the meeting of the Commission on 24 May 2004. Comments and recommendations for the Topic Review had been circulated.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report.**

- 2 To cancel the topic review meeting scheduled for 6 April 2004 and submit any further recommendations or comments to Rob Davison or Councillor Wynn or Councillor Latham.**

Matters referred to the Commission by the Council Cabinet

70/03 Best Value Review of Promoting Learning and Access to Jobs Progress Report

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Education setting out a progress report on the Best Value Review, Promoting Learning and Access to Jobs which had been considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 24 February 2004. It had been referred to this Commission for comment.

Resolved to note the report.

71/03 Inspection of Adult Learning Service

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Education setting out a report which had been considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 16 March 2004. It had been referred to this Commission for comment.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report.**
- 2 To consider the Action Plan once it had been finalised.**

72/03 Education Development Plan – EDP – Evaluation of Performance in Schools

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Education, setting out a report on the Education Development Plan Evaluation and Performance in Schools, which had been considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 16 March 2004. It had referred to this Commission for comment.

Resolved

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To receive a progress report on the implementing the Education Development Plan at the appropriate time.**

73/03 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

Resolved that the Commission should consider the following items from the Forward Plan at the most appropriate time:

- **Options for Nursery Classes in Mickleover**
- **Vision for Children's Centres**
- **PFI Progress Update.**

Items for Discussion

At this point, Councillor Latham left the meeting.

74/03 PFI Timetable

The Commission considered an oral report from the Director of Finance setting out the latest position in relation to the PFI timetable. The Council had short listed two bidders, Jarvis Plc and Vinci Investments Ltd and an evaluation of the bids was proceeding. This had not been finalised but was due to be concluded with a report being submitted to Council Cabinet at its meeting on 27 April 2004. This would include the recommendation of the PFI Project Board on the preferred bidder. The evaluation was an analytical desktop exercise and included external advisors for technical, financial and legal elements of the bids. The evaluation was done on a scoring matrix with aggregated scores and then a preferred bidder would be decided upon by Council Cabinet and the bidders would be informed of the decision on 28 April 2004. Further detailed negotiation with the preferred bidder would then take place. It was hoped that construction work would start during the summer holidays, with phase one coming online in September 2005 (or thereabouts) and phase two in September 2006 (or thereabouts).

Councillor Ahern was concerned that trade unions had been excluded from meetings particularly where health and safety was considered. Mike Melliush reported that a series of meetings with non-teaching trade unions and both bidders had been set up, specifically to deal with health and safety and TUPE issues. Councillor Chera asked which schools would be included in phase one and phase two, it was reported that the secondary schools were likely to be phase one with the primary schools being phase two. The Commission was concerned about union involvement in the process, it was agreed that the issue of alleged non involvement of trades unions should be considered at a separate meeting.

Once construction had started, there would be a need for contract monitoring and it was felt that union involvement could take place at the monitoring stage. The make up of both the project board and contract monitoring needed to be explored and the views of the Commission reported to Council Cabinet.

Resolved

- 1. To make Council Cabinet aware of the Commission's view on the involvement of unions, both on the PFI project board and in contract monitoring and report back to the next meeting.**
- 2. To request the Director of Education to arrange a separate meeting to discuss the alleged non – involvement of trades unions in the PFI process.**

(Councillor Latham, having declared a personal prejudicial interest in the above item, left the meeting during the discussion and voting there on.)

Chair of the next ensuing meeting
at which these minutes were signed