

Time commenced : 11:00 am  
Time finished : 12:20 pm  
  
Time adjourned : 12:00 pm  
Time recommenced : 12:10 pm

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE  
AND THE TEACHERS' JOINT COMMITTEE  
22 JANUARY 2004**

**Present: Employer's Side**

Councillor M Carr (Chair)  
Councillor L Allen (Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning)  
Mr R Cowlshaw (Chief Executive)  
Mr P Dransfield (Director of Finance)  
Mr A Flack (Director of Education)  
Mr D Parnham (Personnel Officer (Policy) – Education)  
Ms S Scott (Personnel Officer - (Policy))

**Trade Unions' Side**

Mr K Cullen (NASUWT)  
Mr S Fogell (UNISON)  
Mr M Fox (UNISON)  
Mr A Franik (UNISON)  
Ms G Glasby (UNISON)  
Ms M Greenshields (UNISON)  
Ms M Hobson (NAHT)  
Ms A Howitt (UNISON)  
Mr I Jennison (NUT)  
Mr N Kachisi (NATFHE)  
Mr J McCallum (T & GWU)  
Mr R Morgan (GMP/MPO)  
Mr M O'Neill (NATFHE)  
Ms K Parker (UNISON)  
Mr N Pheasant (UNISON)  
Ms P Shepherd (UNISON)  
Mr J Swain (T & GWU)  
Mr D Wilkinson (NASUWT)

Before the meeting commenced Moz Greenshields of UNISON introduced Pam Shepherd, who was the new Regional Organiser for UNISON, replacing Charlie Carruth in this role.

The Chair welcomed Pam to the Committee.

#### 47/03 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received Mr R Heath and Mr B Seagrave.

#### 48/03 Draft Revenue Budget

The Committee received a presentation from Paul Dransfield - Director of Finance and Andrew Flack - Director of Education on the Council's Draft Revenue Budget 2004/05 and the Education specific budget items.

Paul Dransfield stated that slides of the presentation could be sent to those present for information after the meeting. The Committee noted details of the current budget 2003/04 in which Education and Social Services made up one half and one quarter of the total spending respectively. The provisional financial settlement was also included in the presentation.

Paul Dransfield reported that in December 2003, the updated grant position of the finance settlement had been better than anticipated, particularly in Education. The Government announced that an increase in grant to Local Authorities would be made, which was designed to reduce Council Tax increases.

It was reported that for Derby this would increase the grant by £1.1 million to give a 6.5% revised increase.

Andrew Flack outlined that there had been an increase in the Education budget of £7.3 million, which was made up of inflation, schools' budgets, other developments, less an overspend dropping out and efficiencies from the current financial year.

He reported that the UNISON grading claim was still to be finalised, but it was anticipated that any change would be implemented from April 2004. In addition provision for backdating pay from September 2003 to April 2004 was still being considered.

Dave Wilkinson of the NASUWT stated that with respect to teachers' pay grants for the upper pay spine, he anticipated that they would be signed by the end of January 2004.

Andrew Flack highlighted the main priorities in the Education Budget:

- Growth in schools
- Pupil behaviour
- Improvement in strategic capacity

Questions from those present were invited and the Trade Unions' side raised the following issues.

Dave Wilkinson welcomed the Government's minimum guarantees for Education funding and considered it to be good news. He urged that the Local Authority should work to control the level of redundancies within the Education Department. He was also unhappy about the level of fining for schools that excluded pupils.

Andrew Flack responded that no Governing body or Head Teacher was enthusiastic about redundancies. With regard to the comment on 'fining' schools, he responded that this was necessary in order to fund the continuing education of the pupil, for which the Education department had responsibility.

Moz Greenshields asked for clarification on three areas within the presentation:

- Vulnerabilities within the Edge Project
- What £270 million for Education Childcare meant
- The implications of the UNISON grading claim

Andrew Flack responded that:

- £70,000 was available for the Youth Service Passporting, which would be targeted at the Edge and Runaways Projects, where grant funding was ending
- £270 million was a national figure and equated to the additional provision for children's' centres
- The full effect of the grading claim for schools was estimated at £700,000 and back dating the 7 months from September 2003 to March 2004 would be £390,000, which was roughly the £1,000,000 he had noted at the Joint Consultative Committee.

Andrew Flack left the meeting, which adjourned at 12:00 pm and recommenced at 12:10 pm.

Paul Dransfield requested that the Trade Unions' representatives send him comments on the budget by the end of January 2004.

Moz Greenshields commented that she did not think that there would be time for departmental discussions before the end of January 2004, and asked for clarification of the timetable of the 2004/05 budget approval.

Feedback would be presented to the Council Cabinet Budget meeting, which was a public meeting to be held on 10 February 2004. The Council Cabinet would make its recommendations to Council at its meeting on 24 February 2004 and that Council would approve the final 2004/05 budget in March 2004.

Andy Franik of UNISON asked a question about the learning difficulties budget within Social Services.

Paul Dransfield could not answer specifically, but committed to raise this with Margaret McGlade - Director of Social Services.

**PD**

Moz Greenshields asked for clarification of what 4% national per pupil minimum guarantee for each school meant, and what had happened to the health and safety issues raised at last year's budget meeting.

Paul Dransfield responded that only Councils that intended to spend below the targets would need Department for Education and Skills approval and that would not apply to Derby. With respect to the health and safety issues, all other ongoing budgets would be continued.

Moz Greenshields commented that she would seek the support of the Council with her members grading claim.

Richard Morgan of GMB - MPO asked what impact the census revaluation had had.

Paul Dransfield responded that the census impact had been felt in last year's budget and would continue into 2004/05. The forthcoming review by the Office for National Statistics - ONS would come into effect in 2005/06 and it would potentially be backdated.

MINUTES END