

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 8:00pm

EDUCATION COMMISSION 6 SEPTEMBER 2004

Present: Councillor MacDonald (in the Chair)
Councillors Dhamrait, Khan, Latham, Marshall,
Winter

Co-opted Members: Mr John Honey (Roman Catholic Diocese)
Mr Tom Johnston

Also in Attendance Councillor Allen
Mr Hodgson - to speak on the item relating to
Adult Learning Service future accommodation -
Rycote Centre

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wynn and Mr Edwards
(Church of England Diocese)

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 Dhamrait	Personal	Governor – Sinfin Primary School
		Governor – Dale Primary School
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

5/04 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Commission held on 30 June and 5 July 2004 were accepted as a true record.

Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Commission

The minutes of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Commission held on 1 June 2004 were received.

Items for Discussion

6/04 PFI - Business Case and Commercial and Financial Close

Mike Melluish updated the Commission on the latest position with the PFI. It had been hoped that a report on the business case and the commercial and financial close would have been considered by Council Cabinet on 7 September 2004, but a number of negotiations had not been completed with the preferred bidder. The report would be considered by Council Cabinet on 28 September 2004. Following the approval, the Council would then sign agreements for the project during the following week to enable construction work to start. Copies of the report would be made available to members of the Commission, following a special meeting of the PFI Project Board to be held on 23 September 2004.

Resolved to note the update.

7/04 Overview of Education Issues

Andrew Flack Director of Education, gave a presentation to the Commission on issues likely to arise during the next year. The Education Service Strategic Plan 2004 / 2006 was circulated, which gave the basis for the discussion. Topics for discussion included; improving Key Stage attainment, school attendance, maintaining Adult Learning and exclusions. Reports that were likely to be considered by Council Cabinet included Integrated Children's Services, attainment, budget priorities, creative partnership implementation, 14 - 19 statutory and inspection, excellent clusters, special

needs, the pupil referral unit, exclusion issues, children's centres and extended schools. The discussion also included issues relating to special educational needs, building schools for the future and merging of children's services. During the discussion Andrew Flack responded to a range of questions posed by Members. Mike Sellor Director of the Education Action Zone also gave an update on Education Action Zones.

Resolved to note the report.

8/04 Strategy for 14 -19 Education and Training

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Education, which set out a report considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 20 July 2004, on the Strategy for 14 - 19 Education and Training. The Inspection Report of the 14 - 19 section was expected during mid-October 2004. The Commission was concerned about the impact on schools as a result of the college in the city.

Resolved to note the report.

9/04 Adult Learning Service Future Accommodation Rycote Centre

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Education, which set out a report considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 10 August 2004, relating to the Adult Learning Service future accommodation - Rycote Centre.

Mr Hodgson from the Students and Supporters to Save St Helens House group, had written to the Chair of the Commission and he was invited to address the Commission and answer questions.

Andrew Flack reported that the Adult Learning Service had been a tenant of St Helen's House, but that the building had been criticised by OFSTED and the point had been reached, which due to major health and safety issues at St Helen's House, alternative accommodation needed to be sought, as well addressing access issues for disabled people. Some repairs could be done very quickly but this did not address the long term issues. The Rycote Centre was available and therefore the Adult Learning Service had moved to the Rycote centre temporarily for a year with the hope of making the provision permanent or long-term. The Council was keen to keep city centre provision and there were few locations which met the requirements. The Rycote Centre was situated close to St Helens House and it was hoped that the Adult Learning Service could be permanently located at the Rycote Centre.

Mr Hodgson was invited to address the Commission on the issues outlined in his letter. Items included in the letter were; capacity, vehicle parking, personal safety, cost, timetable and disturbance. Some repairs could be done very quickly but this did not address the long term issues.

Lesley Whitney gave an update on the inspection report for the adult learning service. Various alternative locations for the adult learning service had been considered and ruled out. It was also noted that if the position at the Rycote Centre was made permanent, this would release funding from the Learning and Skills Council of £900,000.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To recommend to Council Cabinet to make relocation of the Adult Learning Service permanent at the Rycote Centre following the closure of St Helen's House.**

10/04 Allocation of Schools to the Excellence Clusters

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Education, which set out a report considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 20 July 2004, relating the allocation of Schools to the Excellence Clusters.

Resolved to note the report.

11/04 Schools Admission Forum - Training

It was noted that the Schools Admission Forum would be receiving training on 10 November 2004 at 6pm in the training room at the Council House, which would include the role of the Admissions Forum, basic law and procedures relating to admissions, how admissions are fitted in, the role of governing bodies and review of the work of the Forum.

Resolved to note the report.

12/04 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

No new items were identified for consideration.

Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

13/04 School Place Planning – Secondary Sector Issues

The Commission considered the initial response of the Council Cabinet to the School Place Planning secondary sector issues topic review. The Director of Education had been asked to report back to Council Cabinet with a timetable action plan on how the Commissions recommendations could be taken into account in future school place planning.

Resolved to note the report.

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