

ITEM 6

Time Commenced: 5.00 pm

Time Finished: 5.40 pm

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FORUM 21 MARCH 2007

Present: David Keys

Councillors Allen, Bolton, MacDonald

John Armitage

Ian Bell

Alison Brown

S Colton

Robin Constable

Ann Cruickshank

Keerthi Devendra

Simon Emsley

Cathy Ford

Clare Griffiths

Edward Hayes

Andrea Hewitt

Keith Howkins

J Key

Kathy Mayer

R Pickering

R Sandhu

Roger Shipton

Janet Short

Carran Stevenson

Katherine Taylor

Trevor Vaughan

Jean Walden

Claire Walker

Diane Whitehead

Jacqueline Withington

Brackensdale Junior School

(in the Chair)

Asterdale Primary School

St James CoE (A) Junior School

Derby Diocese, Board of Education

Ashgate Nursery School

Solicitor

Arboretum Primary School

Parent Governor Representative

Lakeside Community Primary

Local Authority – CYP Department

Park View Primary School

Diocese of Nottingham

Rosehill Infant and Nursery School

Local Education Authority

Hardwick Primary School

Community and Voluntary

Controlled Schools

Carlyle Infant School

Hardwick Primary School

Merrill College

Portway Junior School

Meadow Farm Primary School

Constitutional Services Officer

Ash Croft Primary School

Alvaston Infant School

Portway Infants

Local Authority – CYP Department

Brackensdale Infants

01/06 Appointment of Chair

David Keys was appointed as Chair.

02/06 Appointment of Vice Chair

Councillor Les Allen was appointed as Vice Chair.

03/06 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ginns and Latham.

04/06 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

05/06 Declarations of Interest

Name	Type of Interest	Reason
Councillor Allen	Personal	Retired Teacher Member of the Professional Association of Teachers
Councillor MacDonald	Personal	Governor – Lees Brook Community Sports College Member of National Union of Teachers

06/06 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2006 were confirmed as a correct record.

07/06 Consultation on Admission Arrangements 2008-2009

Cathy Ford presented a report to the forum on the Determination of Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2008-2009.

The report stated that the new Code of Practice on School Admissions came into force on 27 February 2007 and requires all admission authorities to 'act in accordance' with the code rather than merely 'have regard to' the Code. The admission arrangements for all schools in the city fully comply with the new arrangements.

The Forum was told that comments had been invited on the Council's admission arrangements and Parkview Primary School had submitted points for consideration, which were attached at Appendix 2 of the report.

The Forum noted the report and the admission arrangements for Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools in the City.

08/06 Quorum

Robin Constable asked the members to consider the size at which to set the quorum of the School Admissions Forum.

Robin explained that the core membership of the Forum can set the quorum, but that this figure would take into account the size of the full membership. He explained that the new regulations, which came into force in February 2007, alter the 2002 regulations, but reserve matters such as setting the quorum

and the appointment of a Chair and Vice Chair for the core members to decide. He emphasised that although the core membership decide on such matters the entire membership would consider the vast majority of items brought to the forum.

A member of the forum asked if school committees can send representatives to this forum. Robin responded that School Organisation Committees were being abolished and that regulations allow school could agree between themselves to send a representative to the forum, if they so chose.

A member of the forum said that they felt that attendance at the forum by either a governor or the head teacher was compulsory. Robin responded that schools do not have to send a representative each time and could arrange with other schools in their cluster to attend on their behalf.

Some members of the forum expressed concern about the differences between the core membership and the 'new' members and asked Robin to write to the Department for Education and Skills, DfES about this before the next meeting.

It was decided that the quorum would be set at eight members and that, as far as possible, decisions would be considered and taken by all members of the forum.

Keith Howkins asked that the quorum figure be included as an item on the next school cluster agenda.

09/06 The Education (Admissions Forums) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007

The Forum received a report informing them of the provisions of the new Education Regulations 2007. The report included a summary of the regulations, which came into force on 27 February 2007.

The following points from the report were highlighted to the Forum:

- The tenure of the school members is four years, the same as the core members.
- Eligibility to be a school member ceases if they are no longer the head teacher or governor for the school.
- The forum may prepare and publish reports on matters connected with the admission of pupils of maintained schools in the area.
- The forum also has the power to refer objections to admission arrangements to the schools adjudicator.
- The members of the Forum should be given one week's notice of the time and place of a meeting.

The Chair asked if the next meeting date had been set as it is often difficult to set these. Cathy Ford responded that the date of the next meeting would be in late September/early October, but it had not been set.

A member of the Forum asked if a list of the core members could be provided.

The Forum:

1. noted the report
2. asked Cathy Ford to inform members of the date of the next meeting at the earliest opportunity
3. asked the Constitutional Services Officer to bring a list of the core members to the next meeting.

MINUTES END