

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.30pm

EDUCATION COMMISSION 6 MARCH 2006

Present: Councillor MacDonald (in the Chair)
Councillors Afzal, Allen, Higginbottom, Hird, Khan and Latham

Also Present:

Councillor Wynn
Ian Jennison - NUT

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Liversedge, Dr Devendra, John Honey, Nasreen Iqbal and Tony Walsh.

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 Higginbottom	Personal	Vice Chair of Governors – Ashgate Primary School
Councillor Allen	Personal	Chair of the Management Committee at the Pupil Referral unit
		Governor at St Clare's School

42/05 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 23 January 2006 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

43/05 Call In

There were no items.

Items for Discussion

44/05 Integrating Children's Services

The Commission received an update on Integrating Children's Services. Andrew Flack reported that 5 March 2006 was the official opening of the Lighthouse Centre. Planning for the centre had started eight years ago and had been funded by the PCT, Council and outside bodies. Feedback had been received from the DfES saying how impressed they were with Derby's commitment and enthusiasm towards the project.

It was reported that the Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee would be meeting on 21 March 2006 to look at internal divisional structures.

Resolved to note the update.

45/05 Children and Young People's Plan

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director, Children and Young People that provided details of the Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2008. Andrew Flack reported that as part of the Integrating Children's Services project, substantial work had been carried out to develop the draft of the first Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2008 for Derby. It was reported that the plan had been developed under the Children Act 2004 with staff from all of the agencies working with children and young people, and consultation on the draft had been carried out with those organisations.

It was noted that the plan had already been to Council Cabinet and Social Care and Health Commission and was continuing through Council routes.

Councillor Latham considered that there were inconsistencies within the plan and that it was difficult to understand for people who did not understand the jargon. She suggested that the document should go to the Plain English Panel.

Andrew Flack considered that some technical language within the document could not be avoided. He reported that the plan would not be approved by Full Council until May 2006 and that it was anticipated that it would return to Council Cabinet beforehand.

Councillor Allen suggested that further information should be added, specifying who was responsible for actions and improvements.

Rachel Dickinson responded that the plan was a strategic document and whilst it was important to identify who was responsible for what, the plan was an umbrella plan. She suggested that maybe the purpose of the plan had not been properly conveyed.

Resolved

- 1. to note the draft Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2008**
- 2. to include an explanation of 'Lead Member for Children and Young People' and an introduction explaining the purpose of the document and what audience it was trying to address, within the plan**
- 3. to Plain English the document, in order to make it more accessible.**

46/05 Capital Budget Scrutiny

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director, Corporate and Adult Social Services and Deputy Chief Executive that detailed the draft Education Capital Budget 2006/07 to 2008/09.

Councillor Allen commented that he was pleased that Ivy House and Normanton Infant and Junior School had received the go ahead for work.

Resolved to note the report.

47/05 Performance Monitoring

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director, Corporate and Adult Social Services and Deputy Chief Executive that detailed the third quarter performance monitoring 2005/06 of indicators under the remit of the Education Commission. The Commission were requested to choose approximately 20 performance indicators to monitor on a quarterly basis.

Councillor Higginbottom suggested that the Commission choose indicators at each meeting to monitor and review at the next available meeting.

Councillor Khan suggested that a commentary be displayed on the performance monitoring data to make it clear which areas have improved or not.

Resolved

- 1. to note the performance indicators under the remit of the Education Commission during the third quarter 2005/06**
- 2. to include a commentary of performance monitoring data**
- 3. to look at indicators CPD 1 a, b, c, d, e and g and BV 43 a and b at the next meeting of the Commission.**

48/05 Adult Learning Topic Review

The Commission considered a report from Members of the Commission that detailed a topic review of the impact of the Learning and Skills Council's national Agenda for Change programme on adult learning in the city, following a resolution by the Commission in September 2005.

It was reported that the Commission interviewed a number of witnesses as part of the review and made 10 recommendations in the final report.

Andrew Flack raised concerns that there were flaws within the recommendations.

Mahroof Hussain responded that everyone who took part in the review, apart from the Acting Director of the Learning and Skills Council, had made comments and suggestions that had been taken on board before producing the final report.

Resolved to approve the report and send to the relevant Cabinet Member meeting for a response.

49/05 Forward Plan

There were no items.

50/05 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of
the Commission

There were no items.

51/05 Matters Referred to the Commission by Council
Cabinet

There were no items.

MINUTES END