

Time commenced – 6.00pm  
Time finished – 7:55pm

## EDUCATION COMMISSION 29 NOVEMBER 2004

Present: Councillor MacDonald (in the Chair)  
Councillors Dhamrait, Latham, Liversedge, Winter  
and Wynn

Co-opted Members: Mr Tom Johnston

Also in Attendance Mr David Wilkinson (NASUWT)

### Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Khan and Marshall,  
Mr David Edwards - Church of England Diocese and Mr John Honey -  
Roman Catholic Diocese

### Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair reported that the Cross Party Working Group set up to look at  
home to school transport would be holding its first meeting on 6 December  
2004. The working party consisted of Councillors Allen, P Berry, Jones,  
Redfern, Hird and MacDonald. The Commission requested that an update  
be given at the January meeting of the Commission, with the Cabinet  
Member for Lifelong Learning being invited to that meeting.

### 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 T Johnston	Personal	Vice Chair Governor – Murray Park School  Chair Governor – St. Clare's School
Councillor Winter	Personal	Governor – Mickleover Primary School
Councillor Wynn	Personal	Chair Governor – Beckett School  Chair Governor – Bemrose School  Wife a teacher employed by the LEA  Governor – Nightingale Junior School  Son employed by Woodlands School.

## 19/04 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Commission held on 18 October 2004, were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

## 20/04 Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Commission

The minutes of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Commission held on 12 October 2004 were received.

## Items for Discussion

### 21/04 Early Years Childcare Place Funding Grant

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Education, which had been considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 19 October 2004.

Council Cabinet had approved applications for Childcare Start Up grants for the Den After School Club at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, and Busy Bees After School Club at Portway Infant School. They had refused an

application for Childcare Start Up grant for the Cyber Club. It was reported that grants were allocated on a quarterly basis and that the Cyber Club did not meet the criteria for the grant.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## **22/04      Parent Governor Representatives on the Education Commission**

The Commission received an update on nominations for parent governor representatives on Education Commission. A reception for potential parent governor representatives had been held on 11 November 2004, to enable interested people to meet the Commission and the retiring parent governor representatives to discuss their role on the Commission. At the closing date for nominations for parent governor representatives, 26 November 2004, two nominations had been received. As this was equal to the number of vacancies, it was therefore not necessary to hold a formal election. The two people who had applied were Dr Keerthi Devendra and Nasreen Iqbal. It was also reported that Mr Balwant Bubber, representative from the Racial Equality Council, had resigned from the Racial Equality Council, and it was hoped that a new representative could be found shortly. Confirmation of the new parent governor representatives on the Commission required approval by Council, but it was hoped that they would be able to be invited to the next meeting of the Commission.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## **22/04      Scoping Report for the Education Commissions 2004/2005 Work Plan Topic Reviews**

A report of the Chair of the Education Commission was considered, which set out two scoping reports for possible Topic Reviews for 2004/05. The first scoping report related to the recruitment and retention of School Governors and the second report related to improving the range of support and provision for pupils with significant behaviour difficulties.

In relation to the proposed Topic Review on the recruitment and retention of School Governors, the Commission were concerned that there might be more issues for the Commission to review. The Director of Education advised members that the DfES 5 Year Strategy for Children and Learners would change the role of the Local Education Authority and suggested that the Commission might wish to consider the impact of this.

Consideration was also given to reviewing formula funding, as this had a very significant impact on schools. The Director of Education reported that the annual consultation on formula funding had to be completed by the end of January. This was because it had to feed into Council Cabinet in February as part of the budget process.

The Director of Education also gave a brief update on what was happening with the school place planning topic review. He reported that the DfES were putting forward proposals, provisionally in January which would have a significant effect on primary place planning, surplus places and extended schools. Therefore the strategy arising from the school place planning Topic Review would need to take account of the new DfES proposals.

**Resolved to request a scoping report to the next meeting of the Commission on the implications for the Local Education Authority of the 5 Year Strategy for Children and Learners, with a view to completing the topic review by the end of March 2005.**

## **23/04      Issues Affecting the Education Commission's Choice of Topic Review in 2004/05**

A report of the Director of Education was considered, which stated that in the immediate future the proposal by the Commission to carry out a Topic Review on the range of support and provision for pupils with significant behaviour difficulties, presented considerable problems to the Education Service due to staffing changes. Details of the problems were set out in the report.

**Resolved to note the issues that would potentially effect the Education Commission's proposed review of the range of support provision for pupils with significant behavioural difficulties.**

## **24/04      Performance Eye - Its Use by the Education Commission**

A report of the Chair of the Education Commission was considered, which gave details of Performance Eye and its possible uses by the Education Commission. Consideration was given to making Performance Eye a standing item on future agendas. The Director of Education reported that Performance Eye had potential, but was not well established yet. He reported that detailed reports were considered by Council Cabinet on a quarterly basis and it was suggested that the Commission's use of the information should be linked in to the Council Cabinet reporting cycle. Further indicators from the Education Service Strategic plan were also to be added to Performance Eye, and could then be brought into the reporting cycle. Minor difficulties with the best value performance indicators for education were that they were mainly annual and set by financial year rather than academic year.

### **Resolved**

- 1      to consider Performance Eye at the Commission's meeting in February as a possible source of performance monitoring information.**

- 2 to agree the cycle of reporting for the Commission, to link to Council Cabinet and departmental reporting cycles.**

**25/04 Progress with Implementing Work Plan Topic Review Recommendations**

This item had been covered by earlier discussion on work plan topic reviews.

**Matters Referred to the Commission by the Council Cabinet**

**26/04 Progress on Implementing the Education Development Plan**

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Education, which set out a report approved by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 19 October 2004, relating to the performance of schools and the Education Development Plan. The Director of Education reported that a detailed report would be available early in Spring, as information would not be available on gender and minority ethnic communities until then. There was concern about the Key Stage 2 results, and it was noted that in GCSE's there had been a 0.3% drop in grades A\* to C. Schools which had been in or recently come out of special measures had all improved their results. The Education Development Plan was being phased out and incorporated within the overall Children and Young People's Plan.

Councillor Wynn referred to Bemrose Community School coming out of special measures and congratulated Julia Swan and her team on all the efforts put in to bring the school out of special measures.

There was concern about where English was a second language and the demise of the EMAG fund. The grant was likely to be significantly reduced and a review of the service was being undertaken to see what was essential to continue. This was being done in conjunction with Derbyshire County Council as the City Council provided the service to Derbyshire under a service level agreement.

It was stated that some schools were having budgetary difficulties and whilst there was an attempt to reduce work loads and raise standards, this was not happening in all schools.

There was discussion about inconsistency between schools over parents taking children away for extended holidays and children being taken off roll. It was suggested that guidance be given to governing bodies on a maximum period of absence before a child could be considered for being taken off role.

**Resolved**

- 1. To note the report.**

- 2. To comment to Council Cabinet that the Commission recognised the progress schools had made in coming out of special measures and were pleased to see teacher workloads reducing and morale being boosted.**

## **27/04      14 – 19 Area Wide Inspection**

A report of the Director of Education was considered, which set out a report which had been approved by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 9 November 2004. The report gave details of Derby's area inspection which evaluated the effectiveness and efficiency of education and training provision to meet the need of 14 – 19 year olds, employers and the community.

Councillor Latham asked about the partnership with the Learning and Skills Council and what impact the new college would have on education in the city. The Director of Education reported that the working relationship with the Learning and Skills Council was strong. There was concern that the new college may provide additional Level 3 provision which could have a negative effect on existing sixth forms and therefore opportunities for students in schools. The Commission was concerned that there should be a strong vocational element to the new college and that there should be a mix of provision. One of the unknown elements at the moment was what take up there would be within the new college. It was suggested that sixth forms may need to offer more vocational subjects, in line with 14-19 developments. These matters were being addressed with the LSC and schools as part of the strategic plan for 14-19 education in the city, and the post-inspection action plan.

### **Resolved**

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To make the following comments to Council Cabinet. The Commission recommended that the college be encouraged to provide an appropriate mix of vocational and academic provision, as proposed when the establishment of the new site was agreed. There needed to be balanced provision across the city, with the new centre strengthening the network and opportunities for young people, and not prejudicing the viability of strong sixth forms.**

## **28/04      Review of Special Educational Needs Development Plan 2003-2004**

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Education, which set out a report approved by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 9 November 2004. The report stated that the special educational needs development plan identified nine priorities which were informed by, a response to the

consultation, wider discussion with headteachers, current needs of pupils with SEN national requirements and education service requirement.

**Resolved**

**To note the progress report of the special educational needs development plan.**

**30/04 Council Cabinet Forward Plan**

The Commission considered the Council Cabinet Forward Plan for December 2004. No new items for consideration were identified.

MINUTES END