

Time began - 6.00pm  
Time finished - 6.30pm

## SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE 15 JULY 2004

Present: **Group A (Local Education Authority)**  
Councillors Allen, Gerrard, MacDonald and Wynn

**Group B (Church of England Diocesan Board)**  
Alison Brown

**Group C (Catholic Diocesan Board)**  
Graham Doust

**Group D (Learning and Skills Council)**  
Andrew Martin

**Group E (Schools Group)**  
David Cunningham, Paul Hassall, Carmel McKenna, S Glynne Jones,  
Carole Riley and Jean Moss

**Group F (The Local Community)**  
George Mighty, Dave Wilkinson, Nirmal Pheasant

### 01/04 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Liversedge, John Honey (Group C), Hannah Simmons, David Edwards (Group B) and Christopher Reynolds (Group C).

### 02/04 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

The Chair agreed to admit two items on SOC health checks and the quorum of the SOC.

### 03/04 Declarations of Interest

Jean Moss declared a personal interest in item number 5, as she was a governor at West Park Community School.

### 04/04 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2004 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. Robin Constable informed members that the proposals in relation to High View Technology College had been approved by the schools' adjudicator.

## 05/04 West Park Community School

The Committee considered a proposal to cease the provision of sixth form education at West Park Community School. Brian Walker, the Headteacher at West Park Community School offered to answer any questions that the Committee may have.

It was hoped that the closure of post 16 education would enable the school to concentrate support and resources on improving standards of 11-16 education. It was noted that the school had not had sixth form pupils since July 2003.

**Resolved to approve the proposal to cease provision of sixth form education at West Park Community School.**

## 06/04 SOC Health Checks

The Committee considered an offer from the Chief Schools Adjudicator, following successful pilots in Stoke-on-Trent, Cambridgeshire and Darlington, to conduct health checks for SOC's who would wish to obtain an independent assessment of their operation. Robin Constable reported that the checks would involve the scrutiny of papers from recent casework, interviews with some members of the SOC and a private report to the SOC. It was noted that the aim of the programme was to identify good and poor practices in the SOC, improve understanding of statutory duties and the framework in which they operate. It was noted that the SOC would be expected to arrange a venue and meet any expenses arising from members' involvement in the checks. Checks would be available during September to March each year.

Councillor Wynn considered that the idea should not be dismissed and that a one off inspection would be worth considering, providing the costs of the exercise weren't too expensive and the SOC received positive feedback from it.

**Agreed that the offer would be considered as an agenda item at the next available meeting of the SOC and Robin Constable would obtain further information to present to that meeting.**

## 07/04 Quorum for SOC

As requested by the Chair, Robin Constable asked the Committee if it wished to alter the provisions relating to its quorum.. The current constitution set the Quorum at half of the membership with at least four of the six groups being represented. He suggested that the quorum should be altered to a third of the membership with three of the six groups to be represented.

Councillor Wynn considered that the quorum should be altered, otherwise the SOC could become ineffective. He agreed with the proposed change to one third of the membership but held reservations about changing the number of groups from four to three.

**Resolved to change the SOC constitution to set the quorum as a third of the membership with at least four of the six groups in attendance.**

MINUTES END