

Time commenced – 6.00pm  
Time finished – 7.10pm

## EDUCATION COMMISSION 2 JUNE 2003

Present: Councillor Wynn (in the Chair)  
Councillors Ahern, Chera, J Hickson, Hird, MacDonald  
and Winter

Co-opted Members: Mr David Edwards (Church of England Diocese)  
Mr John Honey (Roman Catholic Diocese)  
Mr Ian Samways and Mr Tom Johnston (Parent  
Governors)  
Mr Balwant R Bubber (Derby Racial Equality  
Council)

Also in Attendance: Mr Chris Holmes (UNISON)  
Mr David Wilkinson (NASUWT)

### Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

### Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair indicated that he felt it would be useful for the Commission to have a brief discussion on potential topic review areas for 2003 / 2004 (Minute 08/03 refers).

### Declarations of Interest

Name	Type of interest	Reason
Councillor Ahern	Personal	Governor – Beckett School
Mr BR Bubber	Personal	Governor – Peartree Infant School Trustee at the Hindu temple
Councillor Chera	Personal Personal Personal	Governor – Sinfin Secondary Community School Member of UNISON Member of the Sikh temple

Mr D Edwards	Personal	Governor – St James' Church of England Junior and Infant School
Councillor J Hickson	Personal	Governor – Etwall Primary School
Mr J Honey	Personal	Headteacher and Governor – St George's Catholic Primary School
Councillor Latham	Personal and prejudicial  Personal	In all matters connected to the Education PFI Grouped Schools bid, by virtue of her husband's professional interest.  Governor – Highview and Ecclesbourne Schools
Councillor MacDonald	Personal	Governor – Lees Brook Community Sports College and Member of National Union of Teachers
Mr I Samways	Personal	Governor – Littleover Community School
Councillor Wynn	Personal	Governor – Beckett School  Wife a teacher employed by the LEA

## 01/03 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Lifelong Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Commission held on 7 April and 16 April respectively, were noted. It was further noted that Mr John Honey had been present at the meeting on 7 April and his name omitted from the attendance list.

## 02/03 Grants to Supplementary Language Classes

Andrew Flack, Director of Education, introduced a report setting out the allocation of grants for supplementary language classes funded from the education access service budget. The Commission noted that the changing ethnicity demographic of the city could impact on the distribution of this grant money. Whilst the Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee would be involved in consideration of any redistribution, it was agreed that it was

important to ensure that that Committee's membership was truly representative of minority ethnic communities in the city.

**Resolved:**

- 1 to note the report**
- 2 to draw the issues regarding the representative nature of the Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee membership to the attention of the Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for Equalities.**

### **03/03 Grouped Schools PFI Project – Next Stages**

Having declared an interest, Councillor Latham withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Andrew Flack, Director of Education, introduced a report setting out recent progress and future issues in respect of the Grouped Schools PFI Project.

Dave Wilkinson, reiterated the Trade Union's stance of outright opposition to PFI.

The Commission discussed the management arrangements for the project, together with the contractual context.

**Resolved:**

- 1 to note the report**
- 2 to ask the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education to ensure that re-appointments at a political level to the PFI Board be reviewed as a matter of urgency.**

### **04/03 Review of the Past Year and Suggestions for the Coming Year**

The Chair asked Members' views on the operation of the Commission, with a view to improving performance in 2003/2004. Councillor Latham, and others, requested that greater priority be given to evening meetings. However, it was acknowledged that the calendar of meetings was already very full in the evenings notwithstanding Members' numerous other commitments. It was agreed that Members should be canvassed on their preference for daytime or evening meetings, and that witness availability was also a factor.

The Commission also considered holding a short pre-meeting for all Commission Members, immediately before each business meeting. This would provide an opportunity for Members to pick out the key issues to concentrate on on the agenda, the aim being to facilitate business more effectively once the meeting was underway. It was agreed to pilot this idea

for three meetings with effect from the previous meeting – the pre-meeting would now be held at 6pm with the meeting proper beginning at 6.15pm.

## 05/03 Remit of the Education Commission

For the benefit of new Members, the Chair recapped the role and status of co-opted Members and Trade Union observers. The Commission asked that a glossary of education-related terms be provided to all Members.

## 06/03 Topic Review – School Place Planning

Lynn Senior, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator, updated the Commission on the status of the school place planning topic review. The terms of reference having been agreed in February, it was anticipated that the review would be completed in September 2003, subject to the availability of new Members to complete the review within this timetable. Following the change of membership on the Commission, it was agreed that Councillor Wynn would replace Councillor Jackson on the topic review planning group and Councillor Hird would replace Councillor Les Allen. The next meeting of the planning group would be held at 6pm on 24 June. It was agreed that Simon Longley, Assistant Director of Education, would be invited to repeat the briefing he provided to Members on school place planning, for the new Councillors.

**Resolved to agree the changes to the topic review planning group detailed above and to request the Assistant Director of Education to repeat the school place planning briefing for members new to the Commission.**

## 07/03 Forward Plan

**Resolved that the Commission should consider the following items from the Forward Plan at the most appropriate time.**

**Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties Strategy Implementation  
Education Capital Schemes  
Early Years Strategy  
Behaviour Support Plan**

## 08/03 Topic Review Selection

The Chair asked Members to submit suggestions for future Topic Review areas to Lynn Senior, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator, to be collated and considered as a full list at the next meeting.

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