

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.40pm

EDUCATION COMMISSION 19 JANUARY 2004

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

Co-opted Members: Mr John Honey
Mr David Edwards
Mr Tom Johnston (Parent Governor)

In Attendance Mr D Wilkinson (NASUWT)

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Hickson, Mr Balwant Bubber (Derby REC) and Mr Ian Samways (Parent Governor).

Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair reported that an update would be given on Formula Funding during the item relating to the Revenue Budget and the Draft Education Capital Programme. The Chair also introduced some people visiting from Leicester City Council's Policy and Performance Team, to observe the work of the Commission.

Declarations of Interest

Name	Type of interest	Reason
Councillor Ahern	Personal	Governor – Becket School
Councillor Chera	Personal Personal Personal	Governor – Sinfin Secondary Community School Member of UNISON Member of the Sikh temple
Councillor J Hickson	Personal	Governor – Etwall Primary School
Councillor Latham	Personal and prejudicial	In all matters connected to the Education PFI Grouped Schools bid, by virtue of her husband's professional interest.

Councillor MacDonald	Personal Personal	Governor – Lees Brook Community Sports College Member of National Union of Teachers
Councillor Wynn	Personal	Chair Governor – Beckett School Chair Governor – Bemrose School Wife a teacher employed by the LEA
Mr BR Bubber	Personal	Governor – Peartree Infant School Trustee at the Hindu temple
Mr D Edwards	Personal	Chair Governor – St James Infants and Vice Chair Governor - St James Junior Schools
Mr J Honey	Personal	Head teacher and Governor St Georges Catholic 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

45/03 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Commission held on 10 December 2003 were accepted as a true record.

Items For Discussion

46/03 Determination of Admission Arrangements 2005-2006

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Education which set out a consultation document, on determination of admission arrangements 2005-2006.

Resolved to note the report.

47/03 Revenue Budget 2004/05 – 2005/06 and Draft Education Capital Programme 2004/05 – 2006/07

The Commission considered a joint report of the Directors of Education and Finance which outlined the budget strategy, the draft budget for 2004/05 and summary of budget proposals, as well as the Draft Education Capital Programme for 2004/05 – 2006/07. Councillor L Allen, Council Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning introduced the reports and stated that Education made up the biggest proportion of the Council's budget and this was split between the Schools' Budget and the Local Education Authority (LEA) Budget.

There was to be a significant increase in the Education Service budget and a minimum increase for schools. The first call on the budget was to improve the school budgets. Other elements of the budget related to the cost for excluded pupils and the Pupil Referral Unit / Behaviour Support, as well as a grading claim by classroom assistants which would have an effect on school budgets.

Andrew Flack gave details of some additional posts that were proposed to support the strategic work of the LEA. The Chair stated that the LEA was tightly funded compared with other authorities. He referred to the additional posts to be created in early years, due to statutory requirements. Support for the Edge and the Runaways Projects, through the 'passporting' to the Youth Service budget as their funding was coming to an end. The Chair suggested that should members of the Commission wish a visit to the Edge to the Runaways project could be arranged.

School growth was still a priority and support was required to meet the demands relating raising standards, remodelling the workforce and pupil behaviour. Strategic capacity was a strong element of this year's budget. A question was raised on costs relating to excluded pupils and a system of 'fining' schools which excluded pupils so that the funding would transfer with the child. An amount to £6,000 per pupil had been proposed, but a lower figure was now being considered. Concern was raised that more money was being taken away than was originally allocated for each child which was excluded.

It was reported that this was the best year for growth for schools since the City Council became a unitary authority. Concern was raised that more money should be available for schools which had difficult catchment areas or particular problems with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The Chair referred to Bemrose School which was in special measures but had still received 112 applications for admission, a high proportion of which were pupils with special educational needs or behavioural difficulties. He stated that schools like Bemrose needed resources to follow pupils to provide the support they required. It was reported that primary schools were treated differently to secondary schools in that there was no system in place for

'fining' primary schools who excluded pupils. There was particular concern that when a school was looking at the need to exclude a pupil, that the decision whether or not to exclude the child should not be a monetary one, but on the merits of the child and other children in the school.

An update on the outcome of the formula funding consultation was given. Particular reference was made to factors in relation to additional educational needs and English as an additional language.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report.**
- 2 That Council Cabinet refer any proposals concerning the transfer of funds where pupils are excluded, to the Education Commission for the Commission's further detailed consideration.**

48/03 Update on Topic Reviews

The Chair reported that the School Placed Planning Topic Review - Primary Sector Issues had been presented to Council Cabinet on 13 January 2004. The Council Cabinet had thanked the Commission for the work and referred it to the Director of Education to contribute to the School Placed Planning Strategy.

School Placed Planning Topic Review – Secondary Sector Issues

Interviews had been arranged for 20 and 22 January 2004 to be held at Bemrose School for evidence gathering. Information had been put in the Members' and Schools' Bulletins on this issue.

Sports Facilities in Schools

Lynn Senior, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator reported that the next Topic Review required planning meetings to be arranged.

49/03 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

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

- 1 Building Schools for the Future – Department for Education and Skills Decision**
- 2 High View Collaborative Restart – Decision following Statutory Notices**
- 3 Grouped Schools PFI Project – Shortlisting of Bidders**

Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

50/03 Service Area Budget Reviews

Lynn Senior, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator reported that Council Cabinet had thanked the Commission for the work undertaken on the Service Area Budget Review.

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