

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 6.52pm

EDUCATION COMMISSION 5 JULY 2004

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

Co-opted Members: Mr Ian Samways
Mr John Honey (Roman Catholic Diocese)
Mr Tom Johnston

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Balwant Bubber (Derby Racial Equality Council).

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 Dhamrait	Personal	Governor – Sinfin Primary School
		Governor – Dale 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.
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

2/04 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Commission held on 24 May 2004 were accepted as a true record.

Items for Discussion

3/04 School Place Planning in Derby: Secondary Sector Issues

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services, which set out the draft report to be submitted to Council Cabinet, on the Commission’s Topic Review for School Place Planning in the Secondary Sector. The report had been deferred at the last meeting of the Commission, pending further discussion with the Director of Education. As a result, some textual and interpretational changes had been made but these were not substantial, nor did they make any fundamental change to the direction or tenor of the recommendations. Further commentary from the Director of Education had not been incorporated, but was set out in the report. The Commission made the following responses to the Directors comments:

Recommendation 2 – this had been edited in the executive summary - agreed to edit the report to be consistent. The body of the report needed to be similarly edited for consistency.

Recommendation 4 – this was noted with no change to the report.

Recommendation 5 – agreed that recommendation 5 should read ‘the Commission recommends that a review of normal areas is conducted, together with a review of the location of school sites in the context of the Building Schools for the Future initiative.’

Recommendation 6 – it was acknowledged that some of this recommendation had already taken place due to the timing of the report and it was agreed to add including the necessary consultation to recommendation 4 as 4b.

The reasons for recommendation to read ‘In light of the influence of parental preference and the strong perceptions held about the City’s schools it is important to hear the views of parents and stakeholders and to raise the public level of understanding of issues of contemporary schooling’. (The Commission acknowledges that at the time of evidence gathering this was not in place but that, in fact, it has now begun’.

Recommendation 7 – agreed that recommendation 7 should read ‘the Commission recommends that regular systemic cross-border consultation, covering education and planning remains firmly embedded in the overall approach to the provision of school places.

Recommendation 9 – agreed that recommendation 9 should read ‘the Commission recommends that it monitors post 16 issues in the light of current developing provision in the city centre and in the light of emerging changes to 14 – 19 curriculum and qualifications’.

Recommendation 11 – noted with no change to the report.

Recommendation 13 – it was noted that this had already been implemented but that the system of funding excluded pupils should be kept under review. The recommendation to be amended accordingly.

The reason for recommendation to read ‘the Commission acknowledges that this recommendation is based on evidence that pre-dates the reconsideration of this issue as part of the budget process. The Commission recommends that the position be kept under review.

Recommendation 15 – agreed that recommendation 15 should read ‘the Commission actively continues to monitor the impact of 14 – 19 curriculum developments and the implementation of the Children Bill and consider how they affect school place planning.

Paragraph 2.12 – the comments of the Director of Education were agreed.

Paragraph 2.20 – the comments of the Director of Education were agreed.

Resolved

That subject the amendments above, the draft report be submitted to Council Cabinet with the Chair, Vice Chair and Councillor Wynn attending the appropriate Cabinet meeting to present the report on behalf of the Commission.

4/04 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Commission considered Council Cabinet Forward Plan for July 2004 and requested where time permits, that the following items be considered by the Commission at the appropriate time:

117/03 – Building Schools for the Future – Department for Education and Skills Decision

150/03 – Vision for Children’s Centres

164/03 – 14 – 19 Strategy

180/03 – Early Years Childcare Place Funding Grant

193/03 – Allocation of Schools to the Excellence Clusters

194/03 – Adult Learning Service – Future Accommodation at the Rycote Centre

Items raised at previous meetings included Health and Safety Executive report on Silverhill Primary School, PFI and High View School.

The Commission congratulated High View School on their coming out of special measures and requested that the Chair or Vice Chair of the Interim Executive Board, be invited to a future meeting to inform the Commission about the success of coming out of special measures so quickly.

MINUTES END