

ITEM 4

Time commenced - 6.00pm
Time finished - 8.20pm

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION 20 JANUARY 2009

Present:
Councillor Bolton (Chair)
Councillor Latham (Chaired the meeting for 61/08 - 65/08
And 68/08 – 72/08)
Councillors F Khan, R Khan, Rawson
John Honey – Catholic Church Diocese
Nasreen Iqbal – Parent Governor Representative
Maurice Lawrence – Parent Governor Representative

In attendance:
Councillor Allen
Dave Wilkinson – NASUWT
Ian Jennison - NUT
Asha Nasar
Alex Boddey
Claire Stoll
Issra Nasar
Davina Butchere
Ryan MacDonald

55/08 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Higginbottom, Ginns and Williams and Alison Brown.

56/08 Late Items

There were no late items.

57/08 Declarations of Interest

Name	Type of interest	Reason
John Honey	Personal	Former head teacher at St George's Catholic Primary School
Nasreen Iqbal	Personal	Parent Governor at Sinfin Community School

58/05 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendments:

To include Councillor R Khan and Nasreen Iqbal – Parent Governor Representative in the list of those present at the meeting.

Items for Discussion

59/08 Budget 2009/10

The Commission considered a report detailing the revenue budget proposals for 2009/10-2011/12. Andrew Flack – Corporate Director for Children and Young People and Zulf Darr – Assistant Director, Corporate Finance addressed the Commission.

In the course of their discussion of the draft Revenue Budget proposals Commission members and the Young People's representatives commented on:

- The need to make central government aware of the impact that the savings the Council was having to make were having on its ability to provide a suitable standard of services to young people in Derby.
- The impact that the proposed use of the £50k from the 'Aim Higher for Disabled Children' grant might have on poorer families with disabled children.
- The unspent balances retained by some schools and the use that could be made of these monies if they, or a proportion of them, could be made available to the Children and Young People department

Resolved to make no specific recommendations in respect of the proposals.

60/08 Children and Young People's Department Capital Programme 2009/10 – 2011/12

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director for Children and Young People detailing the proposed Children and Young People's department Capital Programme for 2009/10 - 2011/12.

Resolved to note the proposed Children and Young People's Capital programme for 2009/10 to 2011/12.

61/08 School Transport Provision – Report of Review of Mainstream School Contract Service Provision

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Community regarding the review of mainstream school contract service provision. David Dowbenko – Integrated Passenger Transport Group Manager presented the report to the Commission.

Cllr Latham raised concerns about transporting primary and secondary school children on the same bus. David Dowbenko conceded that this was a possible problem and said he would look into it.

John Honey raised a large number of points about the report and said he had found some of it contradictory. It was agreed that the Scrutiny and Complaints Manager would facilitate a meeting between John Honey as faith school representative and the Cabinet member and that a report on the outcome of the meeting would be provided to the CYP meeting on 10 March.

Councillor Latham queried whether it was a Liberal Democrat manifesto commitment to review school bus services. Councillor Allen said it was not a commitment but they had to review all services provided. He said that the provision of school transport was a 'historic accident' that the Council had inherited when it took over education from the County Council. Councillor Allen said it was not possible to provide transport to every school and this resulted in inequalities.

David Dowbenko told members that the details of the review had been circulated to Cabinet and Planning and Transportation Commission members and that it had been necessary to act quickly after September because of the fall in loading. He said that the possibility of a total withdrawal was only a proposal at this stage but there was need to consider the economics of the service.

Asha Nasar said that she did not think that it was a good idea to mix primary and secondary school pupils on same bus. This view was generally shared by other young people representatives – there would be issues of possible bullying and safety. Ryan MacDonald suggested the issue was one of choice between cost or intimidation. It was suggested by some of the young people representatives that all schools should have a bus service. They also mentioned the problems caused by scheduled bus services not being on time – this could mean they were marked as arriving late.

Councillor Latham agreed with the young people's concerns about possible bullying.

Councillor Rawson said he was unhappy with the proposals because they could have adverse impact on safety, environmental impact and absence rates. He said a good service was important. He recognised the inequalities issue and said that services should be targeted where most needed.

Councillor Rawson added that advance charging could present difficulties for low income families. In response David Dowbenko said that advance charging helped to achieve an assured income stream. He said the problem was that there were empty buses during the last term of the year and this caused problems for the operators.

Ian Jennison suggested charging a sum of say £60 per child for a bus pass that would be valid all year, for both school and leisure journeys, as this had been tried in the Medway towns and had reduced congestion by 40%. Andrew Flack felt that the idea was worthy of further investigation, however he pointed out that any cost increases would have to be met in a very difficult budget situation.

Nasreen Iqbal said that the transport cost was important but there were also important issues about bullying, the safety of the children using the buses, and the need to protect young girls

Councillor Khan was concerned that the survey had looked at the effect after the new charging proposals had been introduced and not before. He also said that the three mile criterion restricted access to the services and asked what would happen if school bus services were suspended. David Dowbenko said that operators sometimes put on extra services if a school bus service was suspended.

Councillor Allen suggested it was important to look at the whole issue. This included the three mile criterion, problems with bus services should be followed up, the idea of using a single bus to serve several schools should be examined and safety issues should be considered.

Resolved to receive an update report on the review at the next meeting.

62/08 Progress Report on the Joint Area Review Post Inspection Plan

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director for Children and Young People detailing the progress made in response to the recommendations set out in the joint Area Review report of February 2008. Rita Silvester – Assistant Director, Performance and Commissioning addressed the Commission with details of the post-inspection action plan which was attached at appendix 2 of the report.

Resolved to note the progress report on the Joint Area Review post inspection plan.

63/08 Extended Schools – Outcome of the Chair and Vice Chair's Visit to Dale School Extended School

The Commission considered the notes detailing the outcome of the Chair and Vice Chair's visit to Dale School to discuss extended school services and activities in Dale School, St Joseph's, St Chads, Stonehill Nursery and the Castle Nursery.

Andrew Flack advised the Commission that a report on extended schools provision, responding to the issues raised, would be presented to a future meeting. Councillor Rawson asked for more information on services other than child care that are provided by extended schools.

Resolved to receive a detailed report on extended schools at a future meeting of the Commission.

64/08 Results and Recommendations Arising from the Commission's Review of the Implications for Staff of the Sinfin Community School Academy Proposals

The Commission considered the notes of the Commission review meeting that took place on 11 December and the outcome of the review. The Commission also considered the minutes of the Council Cabinet from its meeting on 13 January 2009.

Andrew Flack – Corporate Director for Children and Young People advised the Commission that Cabinet received a report on the closure of Sinfin Community School and an alternative option of a National Challenge Trust school was being explored. The report and recommendations from the Commission had been put on hold until the outcomes of this proposal were determined.

Resolved to note the report.

65/08 Learning and Skills Bill

The Commission received a briefing on the proposals contained in the Learning and Skills Bill that was introduced in the Queens Speech in November 2008.

Resolved to note the briefing.

66/08 Child Protection

The Chair requested that a report be presented to the Commission on the Council's Safeguarding Children procedures, in light of the recent issues at Haringey and Doncaster. Andrew Flack – Corporate Director for Children and Young People advised that he had already instigated a review of procedures for safeguarding children and this was being carried out by the Safeguarding Children's Board. A report would be presented to the next meeting of the Commission.

Resolved to consider a report following the review of the Council's safeguarding children procedures at the next meeting of the Commission.

67/08 The Gang Culture in Derby

The Chair suggested that following the recent murder in the Sunnyhill area of the city the Commission should consider carrying out a review of the Gang Culture in Derby. The Commission agreed that there should be a special meeting to look at this issue and to invite all partners concerned with gang culture, in particular the Community Safety Partnership. The Chair specifically asked that young people be involved in this review.

Resolved to arrange a special meeting of the Commission to consider gang culture in Derby.

68/08 Performance Eye

The Commission considered the Performance Eye Quarter 2 indicators that fall into the Children and Young People Commission's remit. David Romaine – Scrutiny and Complaints Manager, asked the Commission to let him know if they wanted a report on any of the indicators at a future meeting.

Resolved to note the Performance Eye Quarter 2 indicators.

69/08 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items.

70/08 Forward Plan

There were no items identified from the forward plan for discussion at a future meeting.

71/08 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any Reports of the Commission

The Commission considered the response of Council Cabinet at its meeting on 13 January 2009 concerning the Commission's report on Sinfin School.

Resolved to note the response of Council Cabinet.

72/08 Matters Referred to the Commission by Council
 Cabinet

There were no items.

Minutes End