

AT A MEETING of the EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL held at The Castle,
Winchester on 11 October 2012

PRESENT

Councillors: P Edgar (Chairman), B Collin, B D Dash, R J Kimber (Vice-Chairman),
Mrs J Porter

Co-opted: Mrs P Clarke, D White

94. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R McIntosh, F Cowper,
M Kemp-Gee, R Perry, Tony Blackshaw and David Mewes.

95. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

With relation to items on the agenda, Councillor Edgar declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as a life member of the National Association of Headteachers.

96. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

97. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Penny Clarke, the new co-opted member from the Teachers' Liaison Panel to her first meeting.

The Chairman informed Members about the recent New National Curriculum Conference in Winchester, which had taken a first look at the consultation on the proposed new national curriculum, and had been attended by 358 Head and Senior teachers. He congratulated all who had been involved in delivering this very successful event and reported to Members that a follow-up event was being planned at the request of some of the attendees. He

indicated that the new national curriculum was likely to be less prescriptive and would enable schools to mould the curriculum more to their own school's ethos, pupils and area.

The Chairman mentioned the new financial regulations for school funding that were an issue of concern for the Panel. He complimented Felicity Roe (Assistant Director, Access, Performance and Resources) on the development of a formula with safeguards which would mean that small schools should be protected. The Panel agreed that the Chairman should pass on a vote of thanks to her.

Finally, the Chairman updated Members on the situation with academies. The national picture showed 2,340 schools had become academies out of approximately 23,400, i.e. 10%; in Hampshire 35 out of 522 schools were now academies, i.e. about 7%. Of these 7 were primary schools, 27 secondary and 1 special. Two secondary schools were in the process of becoming academies, but there had been no further applications for academy status.

98. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were made.

99. CHANGES TO THE OFSTED FRAMEWORK AND OUTCOMES TO DATE

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Pam Simpson who went on to report on the changes to the Ofsted Framework from January 2012, the subsequent changes from September 2012 and described the Ofsted outcomes in Hampshire Schools before and after the introduction of the new framework.

She explained that this third Ofsted Framework in three years was intended to add rigor to the inspections; Ofsted was concerned that under half of outstanding and good schools were in deprived areas. Referring to the structure diagram in the report, she indicated that, although the structure had been slimmed down, with only 4 key judgements, everything was still covered. She drew Members' attention to Hampshire's outcomes under the January structure, noting that most decline had come in outstanding and good schools and that those which had remained as satisfactory had in fact had to improve because the benchmarks had risen. The latest national statistical release from Ofsted, covering January to June 2012, was similar to Hampshire – 23% improved, 47% static and 30% declined. Four key findings from the January Framework were highlighted – the importance of accurate feedback from parents, pupils and staff, and of providing robust evidence of the impact on improvement of a school's leadership and management, of 'closing the gap' in pupil performance, and of improvement over time .

Members were informed that under the September framework the aim was to 'make good the minimum acceptable standard'. The satisfactory category had been replaced with 'requires improvement' and there was an expectation that there should be a faster rate of improvement; monitoring visits would start within six weeks of notification and only two inspections at a 'requires improvement' level would be allowed before a school was put in special measures. Schools were now given less than a day's notice before the start

of an inspection. It was noted that the Local Authority was expected to attend the inspection, which gives them an opportunity to provide their view on how the school should be judged. There was a focus on how the 'pupil premium' was being applied to improve achievement and a recognition that schools could be good, even if attainment was below average.

Members were informed that of the 17 Ofsted inspection results under the September Framework over half the schools had improved a grade or more and 12 of them were good or better.

Members' discussed schools in deprived areas and the difficulties in recruiting and retaining good heads for them. It had been noted that under the new framework outstanding schools were exempt from routine inspections and good ones would be inspected less frequently. Concerns were raised that these schools would not be monitored effectively to ensure continued excellence. The Panel were informed that in Hampshire there was a tight plan in place to look for signs of decline; district managers scrutinised school results in September each year and schools self-evaluated in order to pick up on any underlying problems. It was stressed that the authority did not wait for a decline to happen, but it was not always possible to intervene if the head and governors were not supportive.

It was reported that the new framework would also look at performance management data and a comment was made that the current system of performance management in schools made teachers feel pressurized. It was further stated that the system did not have the capacity for improvement within the short timescales expected. It was noted that the local authority had no access to performance management data from schools.

The Panel expressed their thanks to Pam Simpson for her presentation.

RESOLVED:

- That the panel noted the report.

100. PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN WESTERN HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN

The Panel considered the report of the Director of Children's Services identifying the schools in Western Hampshire that were causing concern (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

- That the Panel noted the report.

101. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That in relation to the following item the press and public be excluded from the meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information for the reasons set out in the report.

102. **PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN WESTERN HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN**

The Panel considered the exempt appendix of the Director of Children's Services on schools in Western Hampshire causing concern (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

Members discussed in detail issues relating to those schools.

[SUMMARY OF AN EXEMPT MINUTE]