

AT A MEETING of the EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL held at The Castle, Winchester on 4 March 2015

PRESENT:

Chairman:
p Councillor Peter Edgar

Vice-Chairman:
p Councillor Rita Burgess

p Roz Chadd
p Charles Choudhary
a Ferris Cowper
p Jacqui England

p Jackie Porter
p Philip Fawkes
p Warwick Lovegrove

Co-opted Members:
p Carolyn Clarke
p Liz Muir
a Penny Clarke

70. BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes. This would not apply to the confidential part of the meeting.

71. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

72. 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.

73. MINUTES

The non-exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2014 (Item 3 in the Minute Book) were received, subject to the following correction:

Minute 69 - the item should have read "Progress of Schools in Eastern Hampshire Causing Concern" and not Western.

With this correction, the Minutes were duly agreed and signed by the Chairman.

74. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman announced that approval had recently been given to the County Council's capital schools maintenance programme over the next three years. It was envisaged that, due to the ever increasing demand for the County Council's outstanding schools, an extra 11,000 school places would be required by 2018.

The Chairman thanked Botley County Primary School who had recently received an impromptu visit from Nick Gibb, the Government's Minister for School Reform. During the visit he watched children taking part in a discussion on Queen Victoria and her reign and asked pupils a number of questions on what they had learnt.

75. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were received at this meeting.

76. THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The Panel received and noted a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) on the way in which the County Council carried out its statutory Local Authority school improvement function.

The Director gave a summary on the Council's role in school improvement, which was to "promote high standards in primary and secondary education and to fulfil pupils' potential".

It was reported that the importance of the County Council knowing its schools well could not be underestimated and that having a successful improvement service allowed for early and accurate intervention when required. Members commented on the important role school governors also had in providing internal challenge.

The Director advised that data provided in the report showed the impact of the County Council's monitoring and intervention approach to school improvement. Secondary schools subject to this process were twice as likely to have improved their OFSTED grading over time and half as likely to have suffered a decline as those schools which were no longer in receipt of regular monitoring by the County's School Improvement Service.

Members were made aware of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector for School's Annual Report, published in November last year, which showed Hampshire as being one of the best local authorities for providing excellent challenge, support and intervention to its schools.

77. PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN WESTERN HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN

The Panel received and noted a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 7 in the Minute Book) identifying the schools in Hampshire that were in special measures, having serious weaknesses or below Government floor standards.

78. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That in relation to the following items, 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 proceedings, that if members of the public were present during those items, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of 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 exempt minutes and appendix.

79. EXEMPT MINUTES

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2014 (Item 9 in the Minute Book) were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

80. PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN

The Panel considered the exempt appendix to Item 7 on the Agenda from the Director of Children's Services (Item 10 in the Minute Book) on schools in Hampshire that were in special measures, having serious weaknesses or below Government's floor standards.

Members discussed in detail issues relating to those schools.

[SUMMARY OF AN EXEMPT MINUTE]