

AT A MEETING of the EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL held at The Castle, Winchester on 8 JUNE 2016

PRESENT:

Chairman:
p Councillor Peter Edgar

Vice-Chairman:
p Councillor Rita Burgess

a Zilliah Brooks
p Roz Chadd
p Charles Choudhary
p Jacqui England

p Philip Fawkes
p Warwick Lovegrove
p Fiona Mather
a Jackie Porter

Co-opted Members:

a Carolyn Clarke
p Georgina Mulhall

p Liz Muir

128. **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 did not apply to the confidential part of the meeting.

129. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Brooks and Cllr Porter. Cllr Mather was in attendance as a deputy for Cllr Brooks.

130. **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.

Cllr Edgar declared an interest as a Life Member of the National Association of Headteachers.

Liz Muir declared an interest as an employee of The Cove School.

131. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

132. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman wished to update the Panel on Hampshire County Council's stance on the latest reforms to schools. The Chairman explained that the authority had been coping well until the recent budget speech which indicated that all schools in the country would be forced to become academies. In fact, HCC had been congratulated in the past on interpreting the reforms in the right way by, among others, Ofsted and the Prime Minister. HCC is committed to continuing to make available its support for its family of schools.

The Chairman informed the Panel that he had met recently with Hampshire MPs and will ensure that he continues to brief them about the role of the Local Authority.

The Chairman shared his frustration that it is stated that most Local Authorities are failing in education when this is not true of Hampshire, which has 86% of maintained schools rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by OFSTED. In relation to Multi Academy Trusts, the Chairman stated that Hampshire already undertakes some of the reforms suggested in the White Paper and the authority believes in the benefit of them.

The Chairman welcomed Georgina Mulhall, the new Co-Opted Member of the Education Advisory Panel.

133. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received at this meeting.

134. **AN OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL FEDERATIONS**

The Panel received a presentation from the Head of Governor Services, on School Federations within Hampshire (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The Panel heard that Federations are created when several schools' governing bodies are disbanded and a new overarching body is formed. There are currently

29 federations in Hampshire. Schools retain their DfE number, budget and have separate OFSTED reports however funds can be spent and resources shared across the schools. The Panel heard that Federations result in no immediate changes to staffing or premises arrangements except for the responsibility getting passed onto the new governing body. Schools may, for example, retain their Headteachers, have overarching executive Headteachers or an executive Headteacher with a Head of School in each school.

The Panel heard that there was a statutory process to be followed in establishing a federation including a minimum six week consultation period which does not count school holidays. Similarly, there are detailed procedures set out in the regulations for withdrawing from a Federation.

Members were told of the potential benefits to federation, including stronger leadership, shared CPD and retention of staff and sharing good practise and teaching. However there were also potential challenges such as recruitment of Executive Headteachers, introducing new leadership models and breaking the barriers between component schools.

In response to questions members heard that:

- The County Council's role is to focus on outcomes rather than the process as it still holds the schools to account and has the same intervention rights.
- The County Council gives advice when it is not in favour of a Federation but, following the consultation, it is the Governing Bodies right to decide. There have been Federations that have been viewed as positive and have been supported; however the Authority does not promote Federations to Schools.
- On the whole Federations have performed well in Hampshire with only six not doing well, but this can be down to one school in the Federation being judged as 'Requires Improvement'.

135. PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN 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 are currently judged inadequate by Ofsted or below Government floor standards.

It was noted that due to the roles of Area Director East and West being combined that Panel would no longer rotate the focus of this item between East and West but would consider all school in Hampshire at each meeting.

136. 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 Paragraphs 1, 2 and 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.

137. EXEMPT MINUTES

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2016 (Item 9 in the Minute Book) were confirmed as a correct record. On this basis, the Exempt Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

138. PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN (EXEMPT APPENDIX)

The Panel considered an exempt appendix and verbal update to Item 7 on the Agenda from the Director of Children's Services (Item 10 in the Minute Book) on schools in Hampshire that are currently judged inadequate by Ofsted or below Government's floor standards.

Members of the Panel discussed in detail issues relating to those schools shown in this report.

[SUMMARY OF AN EXEMPT MINUTE]