

AT A MEETING of the EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL held at The Castle,  
Winchester on 16 June 2010

**PRESENT:**

Councillors P. Edgar (Chairman); B.D. Dash; M Kemp-Gee; R.J. Kimber; R. McIntosh.

Co-opted Members : Mr. J. Gawthorpe; Mr. D. White; Mr D Mewes

**20. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F Allgood; B. Collin; K.D. Evans and Mrs J. Porter

**21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should, normally at the time of the debate, declare their interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with paragraph 12 of the Code.

**22. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**23. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman reported that Harrison School in Fareham had agreed to provide a "learning walk" for Members. All Members of the Panel were encouraged to join in if possible and were informed that Children's Services officers would be in touch with further details and dates.

**24. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations made under this item.

**25. READING AMONGST HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Panel noted the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) about reading habits amongst children and young people in Hampshire, which had been approved by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services at his meeting on 15 January 2010.

The report provided the most up to date information on the reading attainment levels and habits of children in the County. It was explained that although attainment is generally high, there is some variation and some vulnerable groups. It was noted that a pilot project to encourage community reading was being arranged in Gosport and Havant and it was agreed that feedback from this should be provided at a future meeting of the Panel.

The Panel discussed the impact of adult illiteracy and the difficulties faced by children who do not have access to books at home. Increased access to e-readers and other digital devices was also highlighted but the Panel concluded that paper books still have an important role to play and that encouraging the pleasure of reading a book was essential. It was acknowledged that digital reading material was also of value, but often fulfilled a different role.

**26. 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 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.

**27. PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN SOUTH EAST HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN**

The Panel considered the exempt report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) on schools in South East Hampshire causing concern.

Members discussed in detail issues relating to those schools.

[SUMMARY OF AN EXEMPT MINUTE]