

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Wednesday, 14 October 2015.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:

p Councillor Ray Bolton

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Roz Chadd

**Councillors:**

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| p John Bennison      | p Roger Huxstep     |
| p Ann Briggs         | p Warwick Lovegrove |
| p Zilliah Brooks     | p Martin Lyon       |
| p Rita Burgess       | a Ken Moon          |
| a Christopher Carter | p Jackie Porter     |
| p Criss Connor       | p Bruce Tennent     |
| a Marge Harvey       | p Ken Thornber      |
| p Tony Hooke         | p Malcolm Wade      |
| p Rob Humby          | p Christopher Wood  |

**Substitute Members:**

p Keith Evans

**Co-opted Members:**

Vacant: Primary School Parent Governor Representative  
p Andrew March: Secondary School Parent Governor Representative  
a Urzula Topp: Roman Catholic Schools Representative  
a Gary Walker: Special School Parent Governor Representative  
a Jeff Williams: Church of England Schools Representative

**At the invitation of the Chairman:**

p Councillor Peter Edgar – Executive Member for Education  
a Councillor Keith Mans – Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services

100. **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 recordings for broadcasting purposes.

101. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chris Carter, Marge Harvey and Ken Moon. Councillor Keith Evans, the conservative standing deputy, was in attendance in their place. Apologies were also received from the Church of England schools representative, Jeff Williams

and the Special School Parent Governor Representative, Gary Walker.

102. **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 Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 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.

103. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2015 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

Under Matters Arising:

- Under Minute 95, the Chairman reported that the process had been started to identify a new parent governor co-opted member of the Committee representing primary schools, and it was hoped the nomination and election process would be completed in time for the next meeting due to take place in January 2016.
- Under Minute 96, the Chairman noted that a seminar had been held on 7 October as requested, which enabled members to take a more detailed look at the proposals for Children's Services under 'Transformation to 2017'. The Chairman thanked officers for providing the seminar and the 12 members who attended.

104. **DEPUTATIONS**

The Committee did not receive any deputations at this meeting.

105. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman did not make any announcements at this meeting.

106. **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS SYLLABUS**

The Committee received a report from a representative of the Director of Children's Services (item 6 in the minute book) providing an update on the work of Hampshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and the review of the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 'Living Difference revised 2011'.

It was reported that the Hampshire SACRE was well supported and considered successful. It was a statutory requirement to convene an 'Agreed Syllabus Conference' (ASC) to review the agreed syllabus for Religious Education in Hampshire. The ASC met in February 2015 to initiate this process. Only a light touch revision of the syllabus was required this time, as the syllabus is currently considered successful and is nationally well regarded. Members heard that Youth Voice to SACRE had also recently held a well attended conference for Key Stage Three students, investigating the question 'Does religion matter even if you are not religious?'

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That according to the SACRE constitution, full members on the committee had to be from a religion. However, a humanist had been invited to join as a co-opted member. Within the Religious Education syllabus were 'non religious world views' which included coverage of the humanist world view.
- One of the purposes of religious education in Hampshire according to the agreed syllabus 'Living Difference revised 2011' is to promote the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of children and young people; therefore contributing to preparing children and young people for life in a complex world.
- The Church of England dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth advise use of 'Living Difference revised' in Church of England schools; Roman Catholic Schools in Hampshire will use the Diocesan syllabus for religious education.
- Training is offered to teachers to support them to tackle complex issues with students e.g. extremism.
- The 'Living Difference' syllabus is also available for use by independent schools. Cllr Edgar commented that many academies follow the agreed syllabus.
- GCSE results for Religious Education were above the national average in Hampshire.
- That a bursary for undertaking a Post Graduate Certificate in Education in Religious Education had been reinstated, which was improving the supply of specialist RE teachers.

Members commented on the importance of maintaining opportunities for collective worship in schools, and the importance of supporting teachers to engage effectively with young people asking challenging questions on issues of religion.

RESOLVED:

The Children and Young People Select Committee note the report and support the approach taken by the Hampshire SACRE.

107. **ETHNIC MINORITY AND TRAVELLER ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE**

The Committee received a report from a representative of the Director of Children's Services (item 7 in the minute book) providing an update on educational outcomes of children and young people from Black, Minority Ethnic and Traveller heritages in Hampshire schools.

The Hampshire Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS), part of Children's Services, has a remit to support schools to improve educational outcomes of children from these groups. It was reported that the number of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) children was growing – 1,000 more in 2015 than 2014 - and there had also been a 10.6% increase in referrals to the EMTAS service. The service providing support to those children had to become more efficient in order to support larger numbers without any increase in budget.

EMTAS provide support to identified children directly and also to schools. The service is well regarded, with the young interpreter scheme receiving a national award. The service had also worked with services for young children to introduce assessing children in Early Years Foundation Stage in their first language.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That EMTAS is funded by schools via the school funding formula. The Schools Forum chose to fund the service centrally, and then funding per pupil is delegated out to schools.
- That it was difficult to track educational attainment of Traveller children over time, as it was dependent on their background being declared by the parent at the time, and this can change from Primary to Secondary School when they ascribe to ethnicity. Numbers are low particularly at Key Stage 4 for identifying trends reliably
- Schools can call on the support provided by EMTAS regardless of the number of children at the school that qualify for support

RESOLVED:

That the report is noted and the approach supported.

That the topic remain on the work programme for a further monitoring item in a year.

Work programme updated.

108. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Director of Policy and Governance presented the Committee's work programme (see Item 8 in the Minute Book).

- Cllr Humby expressed interest in the public health responsibilities towards 0-5 year olds. The Director of Children's Services confirmed that this could be included within the item due to come to the committee in January 2016 on public health in schools.

Work programme updated.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme, subject to any amendments made during the meeting, is agreed.

109. **SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING (SECONDARY PROVISION)**

The Committee received a report from representatives of the Director of Children's Services (item 9 in the minute book) on the strategy for planning for secondary school places for 2015 to 2025.

It was reported that the County Council has a statutory duty to plan (but not fund any deficit) the provision of school places, to secure an appropriate balance locally between supply and demand. It was noted that the cost of providing for the estimated need was £400 million, with a predicted deficit of £155 million. This amounted to 17 extensions to existing schools and five new secondary schools being required.

It was reported that a letter had been received from the Department for Education (DfE) in September 2015 which indicated that the DfE would meet any capital funding shortfall for free schools, therefore consideration was being given to the opportunities this presented. The recommendations contained in the report had been agreed by Cabinet on 5 October 2015. It was noted that the report included an exempt appendix, which was due to the commercial sensitivity over potential developer contributions that could part-fund the required school places.

Cllr Hooke proposed that the exempt appendix be made

public, so that all the financial information would be in the public domain. Officers explained that it would affect the County Council's negotiating position with developers if this information was in the public domain. The proposal was put to the vote but was not carried.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the County Council works with district councils regarding the demand for places in their area and the land needed for potential new schools.
- The County Council works closely with district councils regarding new developments, to determine their impact on need for school places. Around 6,000 homes is likely to require a new school.
- The situation was constantly under review, as house building changes over time. In some cases developers build in phases, therefore school building work may also need to be phased.
- That regarding the projected deficit, Cabinet had agreed a recommendation that authorised the Director of Children's Services to further explore with the DfE and other sources ways in which the projected deficit may be addressed. This was a national issue faced by all councils and therefore required national level discussion.
- There are a number of 'what ifs' that could change the demand profile for school places over time. Planning had to be undertaken based on data available at the time, and would be kept under review and revised if the situation changed enough to affect plans. The strategy was the culmination of two years detailed analysis of a number of different factors.
- That it was assumed any newly built schools would become academies. However government support is available for those that become 'free' schools.
- That it was a national issue that the capacity of the teaching profession may not be enough to support the growth in pupil numbers. The County Council works closely with schools and higher education on this, and affordable housing could also contribute when attracting teachers to roles.
- That predicted population numbers included in the combined authority bid were larger than those in this strategy, as the bid includes the populations of Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Young People's Select Committee receives and notes the report to Cabinet on 5 October 2015, and supports the strategy.

110. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the following item of business, 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 these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 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 exempt appendix.

111. **HAMPSHIRE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL STRATEGY 2015 TO 2025 (EXEMPT APPENDIX)**

The committee considered an exempt appendix to the Hampshire Secondary School Strategy 2015 to 2025 (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

A member questioned whether there was a risk that temporary classrooms would remain for longer periods than planned if developer funding was not achieved as planned. It was responded that the County Council was optimistic that it would be able to fund permanent school places, particularly given the DfE letter referred to earlier.

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Chairman, 20 January 2016