



EDUCATION, YOUTH & LEISURE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting of the EDUCATION, YOUTH & LEISURE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 2 JULY 2003 at 7.00 PM at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Andy Simmons (Chair)
Councillor Lisa Rajan (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Aubyn Graham, Eliza Mann, Kenny Mizzi and Robert Smeath

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Mr Godson Agomuo and Ms Sheila Simpson

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Peter John

OFFICERS: Bob Coomber – Chief Executive
Dr Roger Smith – Director of Education & Culture
Karen Murphy – Senior Lawyer, Education
Peter Roberts – Scrutiny Team

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Alun Hayes and Mrs Josie Spanswick.

MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Sub-Committee noted the membership as indicated on the agenda summons and confirmed the Members listed as being present as the voting Members for the meeting. The Sub-Committee also noted the terms of reference agreed by Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 21 May 2003.

NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS AS URGENT

The Chair agreed to receive a verbal update from the Chief Executive in respect of the Education Contract and a report from the Director of Education & Culture, "Education and Culture: Policy Position".

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

MINUTES

The Sub-Committee received for information the Minutes of its meeting held on 15 April 2003.

RECORDING OF MEMBERS' VOTES

Council Procedure Rule 1.17(5) allows a Member to record her/his vote in respect of any motions and amendments. Such requests are detailed in the following Minutes. Should a Member's vote be recorded in respect of an amendment, a copy of the amendment may be found in the Minute file and is available for public inspection.

The Sub-Committee considered the items set out on the agenda, a copy of which has been incorporated in the Minute File. Each of the following paragraphs relates to the item bearing the same number on the agenda.

1. WORK-PROGRAMME 2003/2004 (see pages 1 - 32)

- 1.1 The Sub-Committee noted the topics recommended by Overview & Scrutiny Committee for inclusion in its 2003/04 work-programme (page 1 of the agenda) and the Education & Culture Department's Summary Forward Plan (page 4). The Sub-Committee also noted the briefing notes provided by the Director of Education & Culture.

RESOLVED: 1. That initial priority be given to the following areas:

- Admissions
- Exclusions
- Extended Schools
- Youth Services

2. That other possible areas for scrutiny include:

- Future of the LEA
- London Challenge
- Education Budget
- Form and Content of Future Performance Reports
- Failing Schools
- Connexions
- Future Need for Secondary School Places
- Departmental Structures

3. That the following Education & Culture Plans be identified for possible inclusion in the work-programme:
 - School Organisation Plan
 - Local Management of Schools Scheme & Fair Funding Formula
 - Youth Service delivery Plan
 - Connexions Development Plan
 - Early Years Development & Childcare Plan
 - Behaviour Support Plan
 - Adult & Community Learning Plan
 - Annual Review of Education Development Plan 2
4. That officers bring back a draft schedule for this work, based on the agreed schedule of meetings for this Sub-Committee, to the next meeting;
5. That Tim Brighouse, the Commissioner for London Schools, be invited to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee to provide a briefing on the London Challenge;
6. That the Sub-Committee consider Performance Reports at its November meeting, preceded by separate briefings on use of data; and
7. That Officers be invited to provide briefings to the Sub-Committee on key areas.

2. EDUCATION CONTRACT

- 2.1 The Chief Executive updated the Sub-Committee as to the negotiations in respect of termination of the education contract. At the end of March, WS Atkins had asked to terminate the contract. The Council was agreeable to this providing it was not detrimental to services or finances. Currently the Council was in dialogue with WS Atkins and the Department for Education & Skills (DfES) to ensure that the Council did not have to meet any additional costs incurred as a result of the termination.
- 2.2 In response to questions from Members, the Chief Executive explained that any shortfall in funding would have to be met from the non-schools element of the education budget. He also explained that structuring of the new contract would benefit from the Council's past experience but that it was not possible to cater in advance for the position where a contractor wished to terminate. The Director of Education & Culture indicated that the new contract would not be drawn up on the basis of accepting a position of stabilisation but on the basis of improvement in services.

2.3 The Director of Education & Culture gave details of the membership of the advisory group on the contract process, which included head-teachers, governors and diocesan representatives. The Head-teachers' Executive Council and Trade Unions had been kept as fully informed as possible in respect of the negotiations. Executive summaries from bidders had been made available and comments encouraged.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That Officers provide a further update to the Sub-Committee's next meeting, including any decision taken by the Executive; and
 2. That the Sub-Committee consider what part it wishes to play in any long-term review of the provision of education in Southwark.

3. EDUCATION AND CULTURE – POLICY POSITION (see pages 33 - 73)

3.1 The Director of Education & Culture circulated briefing notes in respect of DfES Key Policy Priorities, the Minister for Children, Youth, Connexions and Creative Education Policy Positions, the Education Act 2002, the London Challenge, Changes in DfES Responsibility, DfES Consultations 2003 and Building Schools for the Future. The Sub-Committee took account of these in considering its draft work-programme for the year ahead.

The meeting finished at 9.05 pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: