



## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held on 19TH MARCH 2003 at 7.00 P.M. at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Kim HUMPHREYS (Chair)  
Councillors Barrie HARGROVE, Eliza MANN, Mark PURSEY, Andy SIMMONS and Neil WATSON.

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS (VOTING):** Sheila SIMPSON and Godson AGOMUO [elected Parent Governor representatives]

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Toby ECKERSLEY – Chair of Finance & General Purposes Scrutiny Sub-Committee  
John Elliott – Head of Asset Management, Atkins Education

**OFFICERS:** Shelley Burke – Constitutional Support (Scrutiny) Manager  
Bob Coomber – Chief Executive  
Ian Hughes – Head of Corporate Strategy  
Alan Layton – Head of Corporate & Strategic Finance  
Lucas Lundgren – Constitutional Support (Scrutiny) Officer  
Lyn Meadows – Assistant Borough Solicitor  
Bill Murphy – Assistant Chief Executive [Performance & Improvement]  
Dr Roger Smith – Strategic Director of Education & Culture

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Linda MANCHESTER and Aubyn GRAHAM.

### **CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS**

The Members listed as being present were confirmed as the Voting Members.

### **NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMED URGENT**

The Chair agreed to accept the following items as late and urgent for the reasons set out in the reports, i.e.

#### **URGENT OPEN BUSINESS:**

Item 47: Scrutiny - Charter School:

- Appendix A: Charter School Site Plan
- Appendix B: List of Consultants Engaged on Project

Item 55: Member Training

- Item 56: Scrutiny Business Monitor – March 2003
- Education, Youth & Leisure Scrutiny Sub-Committee Monitor
  - Environment & Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee: correspondence [19/03/03] to Councillor Humphreys in respect of Executive interview [Cllr Thomas, 11/02/03] and alternatives to landfill.
- Item 57: Preparation for Interview of Leader and Deputy Leader
- Report to Executive [18/06/02, Item 1]
- Item 58: Finance & General Purposes Scrutiny Sub-Committee [12/03/03]: Recommendations in respect of Best Value Review of Voluntary Sector

### **URGENT CLOSED BUSINESS:**

- Item 500: Charter School Scrutiny: Atkins, Faithful & Gould Report [March 2003] on Increase in Capital Expenditure

### **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were none made.

### **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 to an amendment, a copy of the amendment may be found in the Minute File and is available for public inspection.

The 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.

### **MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the OPEN Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2003 be agreed and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.
2. That the OPEN Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2003 be agreed and signed as a correct record of the proceedings, subject to the following clarification, i.e.:

At Item 48, insert the following text immediately after the recorded resolutions, i.e.

*"In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 1.17(5) Councillors Hargrove, Graham and Simmons requested that their votes against the substantive motion be recorded in the Minutes".*

3. That the OPEN Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2003 be agreed and signed as a correct record of the proceedings, subject to the following correction, i.e.

At Item 54, paragraph 5, sentence 2: replace “£250,000” with “£500,000”.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

At 7.12 p.m. it was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** That the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information that falls within categories 7, 8 & 9 as defined in paragraph 10.4 of the Council’s Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Councillor Toby Eckersley declared his interest in item 47 as a governor of Charter School, and accordingly withdrew from the meeting.

At 7.15 p.m. it was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** That the meeting stand adjourned for twenty minutes to allow time for Members to read the late (closed) report tabled at the meeting.

At 7.40 p.m. the meeting reconvened in open session.

47. **THE CHARTER SCHOOL – PROJECT CHRONOLOGY** (See pages 990-995)

The Strategic Director of Education & Culture introduced the report, outlining the main stages of the project and the critical moments of cost variation from its inception in 1999 until the date of the last Capital Review in 2002. He stated that at each stage of the project agreement had been secured for cost increases, and emphasized that if the remaining stage was not achieved, the school would be unable to deliver the curriculum.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

At 7.50 p.m. it was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** That the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information that falls within categories 7, 8 & 9 as defined in paragraph 10.4 of the Council’s Access to Information Procedure Rules.

500. **CHARTER SCHOOL SCRUTINY: ATKINS, FAITHFUL & GOULD REPORT [MARCH 2003] ON INCREASE IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

The Strategic Director of Education & Culture introduced the report. The Committee considered the report, took evidence from the Legal Officer and asked questions of the Strategic Director of Education & Culture, Atkins Head of Asset Management and the Chief Executive.

At 10.10 p.m. the meeting returned to open session.

55. **MEMBER TRAINING** (See pages 1080-1083)

The Constitutional Support (Scrutiny) Manager introduced the report. The Office of Public Management's evaluation of Southwark's scrutiny function was near completion and its report, including ideas for scrutiny training, would be brought to Overview & Scrutiny Committee before year-end.

Overall Member training would be addressed by the Member development project set up as part of the Council's improvement programme "Forward@Southwark".

The Committee acknowledged that training needs of co-opted voting members of Overview & Scrutiny Committee might well differ from those of Council Members, and invited co-optees to discuss their individual training needs with the Constitutional Support (Scrutiny) Manager outside of the meeting.

56. **SCRUTINY BUSINESS MONITOR – MARCH 2003** (See pages 1066-1079 & 1097-1099)

The Chair agreed to consider the scrutiny Business Monitor for Education, Youth & Leisure Scrutiny Sub-Committee as a late report. The Chair introduced the item. Members outlined recent and forthcoming scrutiny work carried out by their respective scrutiny Sub-Committees, with reference to the scrutiny Business Monitoring reports for each Sub-Committee set out at Appendix A.

The Business Monitor for Health & Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee was not available and officers were asked to circulate this to Members as soon as possible.

Copies of correspondence dated 19 March 2003 to Councillor Humphreys from the Chair of Environment & Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee in respect of the Executive interview [Cllr. Thomas, 11/02/03] and landfill alternatives scrutiny were circulated.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Scrutiny Business Monitor for March 2003 be noted.
2. That Finance & General Purposes Scrutiny Sub-Committee be asked to look at the issue of alleged sizeable discrepancies between estimated and final figure schools budgets, brought up by some headteachers and governors.

57. **PREPARATION FOR INTERVIEW OF LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER** (See pages 1115-1118)

The Head of Corporate Strategy introduced the report. Copies of the first report to the Executive on 18 June 2002 entitled "Changing Policies and Priorities", in which key targets and priorities for the new administration were set out, were circulated to Members to stimulate thinking prior to question setting.

Members agreed that the approach for the forthcoming interviews would follow that used for scrutiny Sub-Committee Executive interviews, which included formulation and pre-notification of main question areas and the posing of supplemental questions during the session.

**RESOLVED:**

Officers to arrange a pre-meeting session for Overview & Scrutiny

Committee Members at 6.00 p.m. immediately prior to the interview of the Leader and Deputy Leader on 16 April 2003.

58. **FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE: RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE BEST VALUE REVIEW OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR** (See pages 1084-1096)

**RESOLVED:** That Community Support & Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee undertake scrutiny of the new voluntary sector review process, as defined in paragraph 3 of the report, i.e.

*The process for undertaking the review as amended following the agreement of a report by Executive on 11 March 2003 being now made up of two parallel processes, i.e.*

- *Work about relationships with the voluntary sector to take place through the COMPACT group; and*
- *A fast track review of voluntary sector grant aid.*

The meeting ended at 10.45 p.m.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**