



# Buckinghamshire County Council

## Minutes

### *HEADTEACHERS AND GOVERNORS CONSULTATIVE GROUP*

AGENDA ITEM:

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HEADTEACHERS AND GOVERNORS CONSULTATIVE GROUP HELD ON THURSDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2000, IN MEZZANINE ROOM 3, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 12.10 PM**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

##### **Buckinghamshire County Council**

Mr M C Appleyard  
Mrs M A M Aston  
Mr M W Taylor

##### **Headteacher Representatives**

Mr M Kitson (Headteacher, Stoke Poges School)  
Mr W D Richards (Headteacher, Sir William Ramsay School)

##### **Governor Representatives**

Mr P Day (Governor Radnage C of E Infant School)  
Mr D B Field (Governor Marsh Gibbon C of E School)  
Mrs V Gowers MBE (Governor Chesham Park Community College)  
Mr T Frodsham (Governor Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School)  
Dr K Simmons (Governor Cressex School) in the Chair

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr B A Allen, Ms C A Galloway, Mr R Westwood and Dr E W Jackson who has now resigned from the Group.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

#### **1 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2000 were agreed.

## **2 MATTERS ARISING**

### **Further Delegation to Schools/SEN Funding Review**

Mr Richards asked whether a response had been made by the LEA to the Government's Consultation Paper on the SEN Code of Practice, copies of the response were tabled for members during the meeting.

## **3 SCHOOLS BUDGETS 2001/02 – BRIEFING ON ISSUES AND OPTIONS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2000**

The Group received a briefing paper which set out the latest developments, potential implications that arose from them and issues that are likely to be subject of formal consultation with schools at the beginning of next term. The Group was advised that the projected increase in the Education SSA, as set out in the report, currently stood at a provisional £12.5m. Members noted that the budget available for schools represented a significant potential increase up to £6.3m targeted at schools as a real-terms increase in revenue funding. The Group also welcomed the increase in the "Capital Devolved Allocations" in the current financial year and noted that any unspent resources could be carried forward to the next financial year. Members commented that difficulty had been experienced in the past obtaining approval to spend capital devolved resources.

In terms of provisional budget allocations and further information, it was reported that it was hoped that this would be available to schools by Christmas or early in the new year following the meeting of the Cabinet on 18 December 2000. Members expressed concern as to how their views would be made known to the Cabinet and noted that they would be passed on via the Cabinet members who were members of the Group. The allocation of the real-terms increase was discussed and it was noted that it would be significantly targeted according to need. The mechanisms for targeting would include the SAT results and the free school meal entitlement, this method, should target more accurately and result in more funding schools serving disadvantaged areas. It was also hoped that the Standards Fund increases in 2001/02 could be funded, with further additional resources for schools and schools support services.

Concern was expressed by representatives about the budget deficits being experienced by Bucks Upper Schools. Elected members within the group were urged to make explicit to schools the principles on which additional allocations were to be made.

## **4 SUPPORT FOR GOVERNING BODIES**

The Group received a report from the Director of Education on developments both locally and nationally to support school governors. It was reported that the DfEE had recently issued a consultation on school governing bodies. Proposals were put forward designed to free governors from some of their executive duties in order to allow them to focus more on their strategic role. A copy of the consultation paper was tabled, it outlined suggestions for

improving support for governing bodies including a review of the clerking arrangements. The Group welcomed the opportunity to discuss this issue and and requested that it be further discussed at the next meeting.

## **5 MODERNISING THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Group discussed the modernisation of the County Council and the implications that it had for the Group. It was reported that the new structure included a Cabinet of eight members each with responsibility for a portfolio, the portfolios covered areas which cut across current departmental boundaries. A Policy Support Group (PAG) had been set up to support the Cabinet members in developing policy and a dedicated General Manager was also attached to each Portfolio Holder. Select Committees had been set up, one of their roles being to scrutinise decisions of the Cabinet. Members were advised that the changes should lead to more effective decision making.

During discussion, members expressed some concern over the significant changes that had been made and requested assurance that their views would be fed to the appropriate Cabinet member. The Group expressed concern that allocations of particular parts of the service to individual portfolios had not been subject to consultation. Members went on to discuss the work of the Group. There was agreement that the Consultative Group potentially had an important function and should continue to exist within the new structure but that it should develop a statement of its Terms of Reference. It was agreed that a report should be submitted to the next meeting listing the current groups/communications between County Councillors, Officers, Headteachers and Governors. It was suggested that future meetings could be chaired by a representative from the Heads or Governors, rather than a County Councillor and that the next meeting would be chaired by Dr Simmons.

## **6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Field raised concern over the lack of communication following requests made for information on the Waddesdon catchment area issue from officers of the County Council and the local County Councillor.

## **7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The following dates were agreed for future meetings.

6 February 2000 commencing 10.00 am  
3 April 2000 commencing at 10.00 am.

## **CHAIRMAN**