



# Buckinghamshire County Council

## Minutes

## SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 3

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION  
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2001 , IN THE  
IRELAND ROOM, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT  
14.30 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 15.50 PM**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

#### **Schools Group**

Mrs P McNeish, Mrs J Wainwright, Mr G Woodruff, Mr A Owen and Mr J Howe

#### **Buckinghamshire County Council Elected Members**

Mr B G Allen, Mr Appleyard, Mrs E M Lay, and Ms S Lee

#### **Oxford Diocesan Board of Education**

Ms E Cracknell, Mr D Sullivan, Mr J A Loarridge, OBE (in the Chair)

#### **Northamptonshire RC Schools Commission**

Mr B O'Byrne

#### **Officers Present**

Mr D Ayres - Head of Schools Organisation  
Mr R Popat - Senior Solicitor Education  
Mr P Holmes - Education Officer (Capital Programme)  
Mrs H Wayland - Committee Administrator

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

Apologies were received from Mrs M A M Aston, Mrs M Bull, Mr P Niekirk, Mrs C Hinds and Mr R Priest (who was to have substituted for Mrs C Hinds).

The meeting welcomed Elizabeth Cracknell to the meeting. Members noted that Mrs S Lee was a permanent substitute for Mrs P M A Dewar.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **1 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 November 2000, were confirmed.

### **2 REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND CONSTITUTION OF THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE**

The Committee received a report from the Legal Services Manager which attached the amended Constitution and Terms of Reference for the Committee and the protocol for addressing Committee meetings. Members noted a number of amendments set out in the report and the following further amendments were made;

1. Groups within the School Organisation Committee
  - d) "Further Education Funding Council" should read "Learning and Skills Council".
2. Tenure of members
  - b) Reference to "Further Education Funding Council" should read "Learning and Skills Council".

#### **14. Quorum**

Should be amended to read: one member from each of the five groups specified in paragraph 1 a, b c, d and e for all post 16 education matters and one member from four of the groups specified a, b, c and e for all matters relating to under 16 education matters.

The Committee discussed representation from colleges in terms of numbers of individuals attending. It was noted that the quorum for the committee was a matter for members to agree. If a larger quorum than was currently in place was agreed it may be difficult to achieve that higher level of attendance. This could lead to meetings being postponed. The Chairman advised members that it was within his discretion to defer the business of the meeting should it appear that insufficient members were present.

The Committee went on to discuss the protocol relating to addressing meetings of the Committee. Officers agreed to produce a short leaflet containing contact details to assist interested parties understand and engage in the process. It was agreed that a copy of the draft leaflet would be submitted to the next meeting.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. That the amended Constitution and Terms of Reference be approved, subject to amendments received at the meeting.**
- 2. The protocol for addressing meetings be approved.**
- 3. A draft leaflet on the protocol be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.**

### **3. SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2001-2006**

The Committee received and noted a report from the General Manager - Education which set out developments that had arisen since the meeting on 21 November 2000 regarding the format of the School Organisation Plan. It also provided the proposed timetable for publication and consultation on the School Organisation Plan 2001 - 2006. It was noted that the draft Plan would be available by mid March. Based on comments made about the current format there would be a shortened version, of approximately 20 A4 sides, and the full version would be available on the Internet. The shortened version would have similar headings to the previous version with the removal of repetition and excessive data. An Action Plan would be attached comprising brief key points. It was noted that although copies were available on the Internet, paper copies could be made available to members upon request.

### **4. UPDATE ON STATUTORY NOTICES PUBLISHED**

The Committee received and noted a report from the General Manager - Schools which informed members of statutory Notices published in respect of school amalgamations and changes in standard number since the last meeting in November. A number of schools had requested changes in their standard number and it was noted that these would be discussed at the next meeting in April.

The proposals for the Highcrest Fresh Start initiative were discussed. The Cabinet Member for Schools highlighted his optimism at the prospect of significant success under the proposals. Members welcomed the authority's commitment to the initiative and also noted the work of the Wycombe Commission which had been a vital component towards its development.

### **5. AREA SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN REVIEW GROUPS: UPDATE**

The Committee received and noted a report from the General Manager - Schools, on the statutory notices published in respect of school amalgamations and changes in standard number since the last meeting in November. It was reported that visits to 60 schools had been carried out and between six and eight groups of schools had been identified for further investigation.

The Chairman reminded members that the review groups comprised; three County Councillors, three Headteachers, three Governors, one representative from the Roman Catholic Diocese and one representative from the Anglican Diocese.

The Committee went on to discuss the status of SEN schools the Cabinet Member for Schools commenting that the authority had in place an "SEN Schools Review for the Millennium Plan". It appeared that only 100 children had been identified who would be affected over the ten years of the Plan. It was noted that an officer was compiling a section on SEN provision to be included in the Schools Organisation Plan.

**6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was noted that a petition had been received from members of the public asking for the establishment of a Secondary School in Winslow.

A member asked whether the Committee had any role in the future of selection at 11+. It was noted in response that this was not within the remit of the Committee, the policy of the County Council was a selective system the Committee dealt with provision within the existing policy.

**7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 25 April at 2.30pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

**CONTACT OFFICER : CLARE GRAY (01296) 382101**