

CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES

**Venue: Town Hall,
Moorgate Street,
Rotherham.**

**Date: Tuesday, 21 December
2004**

Time: 8.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Minutes of meetings of previous meetings held on 30th November and 7th December, 2004 (copies herewith). (Pages 1 - 6)
4. Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education held on 25th November, 2004 (copy herewith). (Pages 7 - 9)
5. Budget Monitoring Report as at November, 2004 (Pete Hudson, Strategic Finance Officer) (report herewith) (Pages 10 - 12)
6. PETITION - Help! - Save Keppel's Column (728 signatures) (FULL COPY OF PETITION IN MEMBERS' ROOM)
7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

**CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES
TUESDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER, 2004**

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair); Councillors Austen and Littleboy.

106. ROTHERHAM LEARNING GRID

Brian James, Chief Executive of RBT (Connect) Ltd. gave a verbal update on the current position regarding delivery of the Rotherham Learning Grid to schools.

With the exception of one school, the programme was on target to deliver the service to all schools by the 15th December 2004 deadline.

The Cabinet Member made reference to an issue recently raised at Rotherham Schools Forum with regard to payment for the service by schools. An assurance was given that this had been resolved.

Resolved:- (1) That the verbal report be received.

(2) That the Information and Performance Review Manager, Resources and Information, circulate feedback received from schools on the advantages already gained by using the system, to all parties in attendance.

107. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolved:- That the minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services held on 9th and 16th November, 2004 be received.

108. LEISURE/JOINT SERVICE CENTRE PROJECT BOARD

Resolved:- That the minutes of a meeting of the Leisure/Joint Service Centre Project Board held on 4th November, 2004 be received.

109. LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the above Forum held on 11th November, 2004 be received.

110. YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES UPDATE

Rod Norton, Young People's Services Manager outlined the content of a report submitted in response to a request from Members for an update on progress and developments within the Young People's Services.

The report covered the following aspects:-

- The Green Paper
- Children and Young People's Services
- Transforming Youth Work
 - * 13-19 Focus
 - * Quality Mark
 - * Accreditation
 - * Quality Assurance
 - * Staff Development
 - * eYS
- Service Development
 - * Voice and Influence
 - * Detached Work
 - * International Work
 - * Outdoor Education – Longdendale
 - * Health Work
- Connexions
- Youth Start
- Premises

Questions were raised with regard to the following issues in particular:-

- Targets in terms of suitable forms of accreditation for disadvantaged young people
- Budgetary issues and impact on service delivery

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received.

(2) That reports detailing progress against 'balanced scorecard' targets be submitted to future meetings on a quarterly basis once the eYS Management Information System is operational across the Service.

(3) That a report be submitted to a future meeting on specific proposals regarding the involvement of Members in the peer evaluation exercise.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES
TUESDAY, 7TH DECEMBER, 2004**

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair); Councillor Littleboy.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Austen and Rushforth.

111. MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services held on 16th November, 2004 were agreed as a correct record.

112. TURNER PRIZE

The Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services reported on the recent success of Jeremy Deller, the winner of this year's Turner Prize.

Jeremy Deller was known to this Authority through his work and involvement in the reconstruction of the Battle of Orgreave at Rother Valley Country Park.

113. LIBRARY POSITION STATEMENT ASSESSMENT 2004

Consideration was given to a report of the Libraries, Museums and Arts Manager outlining this year's assessment and scoring by the Department for Culture Media and Sport following the submission of the Public Library Position Statement to DCMS at the end of September.

This year's score is as follows:-

The Authority's approach to 'Framework for the Future' – 3 (good)

The Authority's performance in relation to Public Library Standards – 3 (good)

This compares to scores of 3 and 1 last year.

The score is used as part of the calculation of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment score within the Authority.

The assessment of the Position Statement is made against two main criteria:

- The quality of the evidence that authorities are providing excellent policies and practice to implement 'Framework for the Future'* in line with local needs
- The authority's response to the Public Library Standards at March 31st 2004 (taking into account progress since January 2001).

(*'Framework for the Future' is the Government's ten year strategy for public libraries)

In view of the Public Library Service Standards being revised for 2005, a report on this matter is being prepared for future consideration.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received.

(2) That the achievement in meeting Standards be welcomed.

(3) That the Manager, Libraries, Museums and Arts pass on the congratulations of this Committee to all Library staff for the work being undertaken in the achievement of this year's scoring.

(4) That the positive impact the achievement will have on improving the Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment rating be noted.

114. NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE STANDARDS

Consideration was given to a report of the Libraries, Museums and Arts Manager which informed of the new Public Library Service Standards as published by the Department for Media, Culture and Sport.

In support of this work a set of impact measures are being developed, aimed at highlighting the contributions made by library services to the communities they serve and to corporate agendas. These should be in place for 1st April, 2005.

The report set out the background on the matter.

The DCMS have reviewed the existing Standards and following consultation announced that from 1st April 2005 the existing 26 Standards are to be replaced by 10. The majority of these are already included in the 26, but some changes have been made to definitions and clarification in terms of what and how to measure performance against particular Standards. The DCMS see these as the 'challenging' Standards.

Currently this Authority met 6 of the new Standards:

- PLS 2 Opening Hours
- PLS 3 Access to electronic information
- PLS 4 Number of electronic workstations
- PLS 7 % of library users (adults) who view their Service as good/very good (if rounded up target – 94% our performance 93.9%)
- PLS 9 Annual number of items added to stock

PLS 10 Time taken to replenish lending stock

Standards not met:

PLS 1 Households within specified distance of a static library
PLS 5 Requests met within 7, 15 and 30 days (currently only meet
7 day standard) – this measures how quickly a book is supplied to
a customer that is not in stock)
PLS 6 Number of visits per 1,000 population
PLS 8 % of library users (children) who view their Service as
good/very good

Of those not met, the meeting recognised that PLS1 could only be met if libraries are built in or relocated to the Bramley/Wickersley and Thorpe Hesley areas and that therefore long term planning was needed.

The other three are areas for the Service to target over the next year through ongoing planned improvements. The number of requests is influenced by an ability to purchase books quickly and the numbers of requests received. The latter has increased as free requests has been introduced. However, if the funding for materials is sustained, there should be progress made against this Standard.

PLS6 has been a Standard that the Service has improved against, but the Council is unlikely to meet the target (6000 visits per 1,000 population) in 2005-06. The current figure is 5177 which is up from 3960 in 200-01. Again, the meeting acknowledged that with two additional libraries in Rotherham, the target would be achievable.

A promotional campaign will commence early 2005, together with continued improvements at the Community Libraries, programmes of events and activities, new book stock and a continued emphasis on the free internet access/free e-mail availability which it was hoped will see the upward trend continue.

PLS 8 is a revised Standard. The Service's focus on children will continue to be a priority. It should be noted that the Authority did meet the old Standard relating to children's satisfaction with the Service.

Discussion took place on factors which would impact on library standards one of which was a "National Offers" initiative, details of which was presently awaited but referred to out of school reading, early years work, work with teenagers, adult learners and adult readers.

A further initiative was peer reviews which had already commenced in some Authorities.

Resolved:- (1) That the introduction of the new Standards and impact measures, and the implications on the Library and Information Service be noted.

(2) That a report be submitted to a future meeting on the impact assessment of new initiatives, as discussed.

115. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AS AT OCTOBER, 2004

Consideration was given to the fifth Budget Monitoring report of the Strategic Finance Officer for the Programme Area in 2004/05. The report set out a current forecast to overspend against budget for the financial year by £397k (0.25%).

This relates to budget pressures in both Culture and Leisure Services (£330k) and Education Services (£67k).

The Culture and Leisure Services overspend primarily relates to continued pressure on sport and recreational facility budgets, as experienced in previous years (£380k). This is partly offset by a saving on the Library Service budget resulting from a moratorium on procurement spending and slippage in staff recruitment (£50k).

The Education Services forecast overspend relates to the under-recovery of income on the schools' HR contract with RBT (£70k), Strategic Management costs relating to clarification of ICT support service arrangements (£137k) and increased costs from revised transport contracts (£10k). This is partly offset by slippage on the implementation of the new Greasborough PRU (£150k) due to difficulties in staff recruitment, and which will now be operational from January, 2005.

The forecast outturn as at October (£397k) is an increase of £387k from the overspend shown in the September report (£10k). All possible action, as detailed in the report submitted, is being taken with a view to returning the Programme Area budget to a balanced position by the end of the financial year.

In addition, the report outlined underlying risks which are presently identified and under evaluation.

The Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services referred to the need for a re-examination of the Human Resources (Schools Traded Service) as part of on-going contract discussions with RBT.

Resolved:- That the forecast outturn for 2004/05 based on actual costs to 31st October and forecast costs to the end of March 2005 be noted.

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
25th November 2004

Present:-

Group 1

Rev. Myerscough
Mr P Buckley
Captain M Bainbridge

Group 2

Mr M Gillam
Mrs J Fern

Group 4

Councillor Littleboy

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Watts and Councillors Austin and Sharman.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman, (Councillor Sharman), Councillor Littleboy took the Chair.

3. RESIGNATION

It was reported that a letter of resignation had been received from Reverend Cannon Sue Proctor who was retiring as Team Rector.

Agreed:- That Kevin Robinson arrange for a replacement to be nominated and make fresh efforts to arrange for Group 3 (teachers) to be represented.

4. CONFERENCE

Agreed:- That Councillor Sharman be nominated to attend a conference in York on the 7 December 2004, in respect of "National Developments and the work of SACRES".

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed:- That the minutes of the meeting held on the 23 June 2004, be received.

6. MATTERS ARISING

a) A National Framework for Religious Education

It was reported that the National Framework had been widely distributed for comment/information.

b) SACRE Development Plan

Agreed:- That arrangements be made by Kevin Robinson for him to visit the new Thornhill Primary school, along with Messrs Bainbridge and Myerscough on Tuesday 14 December 2004.

7. APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Consideration was given to an application for a Determination to modify the daily act of Collective Worship at Oakwood Technology College.

The Headteacher, Jan Charters, submitted information to support the application and gave a short presentation on the application which had the full support of the Governing Body.

The Advisory Council Members discussed the application in detail and various comments were made in respect of:-

- the ethnic minority background of the school
- the difficulties for the school in arranging a daily act of worship
- the school's plans for alternative daily collective worship, including the format, themes and content, having regard to the character of the school (it's multi faith dimension).
- the extent of consultation undertaken in respect of the application
- legislation relating to collective workshop.

Agreed:- That consideration of the application for Determination for Oakwood Technology College be deferred until the next meeting, pending receipt of further information as discussed.

**8. THE SYLLABUS CONFERENCE
REVIEW OF THE ROTHERHAM AGREED SYLLABUS**

Acting as a Syllabus Conference, consideration was given to the content of the following:-

- a) the non-statutory national framework, DfES.
- b) Rotherham Agreed Syllabus of RE 2004 draft

Kevin Robinson highlighted various parts of the draft document, commenting on changes to the previous agreed syllabus.

Points for consideration were submitted for the attention of the meeting, comments to be made thereon by the date of the next meeting in January 2005.

Agreed:- That the papers in respect of the Rotherham Agreed Syllabus of RE for 2004 be sent to all members of Rotherham SACRE, any comments to be submitted prior to the next meeting, scheduled for the 13 January 2005.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was scheduled as a Syllabus Conference for Thursday 13 January 2005, at 2.00 pm.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member and Advisors
2.	Date:	21st December 2004
3.	Title:	Budget Monitoring Report as at November 2004 (All Wards)
4.	Programme Area:	Education, Culture and Leisure Services

- 5. Summary:** This is the sixth Budget Monitoring Report for the Programme Area in 2004/05, with a current forecast to overspend against budget for the financial year by £397k (0.25%).

This relates to budget pressures in both Culture and Leisure Services (£330k) and Education Services (£67k).

- 6. Recommendations:**

Members are asked to note the forecast outturn for 2004/05 based on actual costs to 30th November and forecast costs to the end of March 2005.

7. Proposals and Details: This is the sixth routine Education, Culture and Leisure Services Budget Monitoring Report for 2004/05.

The report forecasts a £397k overspend compared to budget. This relates to budget pressures in both Culture and Leisure Services (£330k) and Education Services (£67k).

The Culture and Leisure Services overspend primarily relates to continued pressure on sport and recreational facility budgets, as experienced in previous years (£380k). This is partly offset by a saving on the Library Service budget resulting from a moratorium on procurement spending and slippage in staff recruitment (£50k).

The Education Services forecast overspend relates to the under-recovery of income on the schools' HR contract with RBT (£70k), Strategic Management costs relating to clarification of ICT support service arrangements (£137k) and increased costs from revised transport contracts (£10k). This is partly offset by slippage on the implementation of the new Greasborough PRU (£150k) due to difficulties in staff recruitment, and which will now be operational from January 2005.

The forecast outturn as at November (£397k) is unchanged from the overspend reported in October. All possible action, detailed below, is being taken with a view to returning the Programme Area budget to a balanced position by the end of the financial year.

8. Finance: The current forecast as at 30th November is for the Programme Area to overspend the budget by £397k.

9. Risks and Uncertainties: Underlying risks presently identified and under evaluation are:

- Education Transport – A number of revised contracts exceeding the level of budgeted inflation were implemented from April 2004. Current forecasts indicate that this will result in a £10k overspend for the transport service.

Work to quantify potential savings from revised modes of operation and tighter implementation of transport policy is ongoing.

- Human Resources (Schools Traded Service) – Negotiations are ongoing with RBT regarding the treatment of income from Schools under the Strategic Contract.
- Recreation and Sport (Indoor Sports) – Management actions are currently focused on reducing overall Culture and Leisure costs to mitigate the forecast overspend in Recreation and Sport.
- The Programme Area is operating a vacancy management procedure with a view to identifying further areas of possible savings.

- Procurement of goods and services is being restricted to essential items only.
10. **Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:** The forecast outturn as at 30th November shows an overspend (£397k) compared to the Programme Area and Corporate financial plan for 2004/05.
 11. **Background Papers and Consultation:** This report has been discussed with the Acting Executive Director of Education, Culture and Leisure Services and the Head of Corporate Finance.

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