

CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES

Venue: Town Hall,
Moorgate Street,
Rotherham.

Date: Tuesday, 1 February 2005

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 a meeting of the Christmas Carnival Co-ordinating Group held on 13th January, 2005 (copy herewith). (Pages 1 - 3)
4. Minutes of a meeting of Rotherham Schools Forum held on 7th January, 2005 (copy herewith). (Pages 4 - 8)
5. Minutes of a meeting of the Education of Looked After Children held on 20th December, 2004 (copy herewith). (Pages 9 - 13)
6. Determination of Catchment Areas for Kimberworth and Meadowhall Primary Schools (Martin Harrop, Principal Officer, Forward Planning) (report herewith). APPENDIX 1 NOT AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY (Pages 14 - 16)
7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

**CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL CO-ORDINATING GROUP
THURSDAY, 13TH JANUARY, 2005**

Present: Peter Coulton (in the Chair); Councillor Jack (Deputy Mayor), Colin Scott, Stewart Lister, Paul Gray and Dawn Runciman.

Apologies were received from The Mayor (Councillor F. Wright), Julie Roberts, Town Centre & Markets Manager, Marie Hayes, Commercial and Promotional Manager, Jane Sinclair, Graham Weaver, and John Wadsworth.

17. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 28TH OCTOBER, 2004.

Agreed:- That the minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 28th October, 2004 be received as a correct record.

18. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Carols from the Church

The service had worked well despite a lack of speakers. It was noted that a new speaker system would be installed in time for this December.

(b) Christmas Illuminations

Peter Coulton reported on the problems encountered with the Company appointed to install and erect lights (Blachere UK) which had mainly been due to the use of sub-contractors. It was accepted that some of the problems could have been attributed to the high winds.

A meeting had been arranged to discuss a number of issues in greater detail.

The need to involve a local Company in the fitting of lights 2005 was acknowledged.

19. FEEDBACK 2004 EVENT - (A) SWITCH ON EVENING (B) SANTA'S GROTTO

(a) Switch On Evening

Several aspects of the switch on event had been disappointing, the worst of which had been the very bad weather, cold and snow.

However, on the whole, the event had progressed reasonably well and the parade was good.

The weather had then had an impact on the amount of people willing to queue for the Grotto.

Rainwater in electric sockets had caused problems but modifications would be made to wiring for the 2005 switch on. In addition, police radios had not worked efficiently due to the wet weather and waterproof covers had been requested for future use.

The meeting acknowledged that some of the features used this year could not have been used again on switch on owing to the cost implications, and that attractions had been scheduled throughout December in order to maximise public interest. There had therefore been "high and low" periods. In addition, it was a case of balancing the requirements of shop owners and the general public, and trying to avoid a clash of events with other towns/surrounding areas.

In terms of new attractions for this year, it was suggested that the use of an inflatable toboggan run could be pursued. Further details about this would be given at a future meeting.

In addition, the use of movie characters was suggested. These characters could undertake daily walkabouts, signings and take part in other events.

It was acknowledged that any features to be used on the parade/switch on event must be programmed in and booked by the earliest date possible.

Councillor Jack expressed the view that the dry ice rink attraction had been well received and that maybe this could be repeated this year.

Consideration would need to be given regarding where to site the rink if it was to become part of the switch on features.

Agreed:- That the Deputy Mayoress (Councillor Jack) provide Dawn Runciman with information on a suitable Company to be invited to give a quotation on the erection of a dry ice rink.

(b) Santa's Grotto

Colin Scott reported a disappointing response from the general public to the use of the Grotto. A great deal of voluntary work had been put into the initiative.

In comparing the feature to other local grottos, the entrance fee of £1.50 was felt to have offered good value for money, which had included a great deal of "goodies" in the entrance fee. As a result of low numbers through the Grotto, a great deal of stock was left over.

It was therefore felt that further consideration should be given to whether a Grotto was feasible this year.

Discussion took place on the impact other initiatives had had on

attendance figures, a particular drop being when the inflatable snowman event and reindeer had arrived, and of the grotto's future location and purpose.

For example, it was noted that the Grotto had been well used on the day of the Craft Market in the Church.

An estimated 2,000 people had visited the town centre on the day the reindeer arrived.

Discussion took place on the use of public attractions in general.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

THANKS

Peter Coulton thanked all those involved in the work of the Group, in particular those involved with switch on events, and work over the past year.

21. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of this Group take place on Thursday, 10th March, 2005 at 2.00 p.m.

**ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS FORUM
(STANDING CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION)
Friday, 7th January, 2005**

Present:-

Mr. L. Morton (in the Chair)	Secondary School Head Teacher
Mrs. A. Jones	Primary School Head Teacher
Mr. A. Staton	Primary School Head Teacher
Mr. P. Storey	Primary School Head Teacher
Mr. P. Leach	Special School Head Teacher
Mrs. J. Nicholson	Secondary School Head Teacher
Mrs. E. Bolam	Non Teaching Unions
Mr. D. Ridgway	Non Teaching Unions
Mr. P. Hawkridge	Teacher Unions
Mrs. J. Turner	Head of Early Years Centre
Mrs. C. Lawler	Learning and Skills Council
Councillor J. Austen	Rotherham MBC
Mr. A. Bedford	Education, Rotherham MBC
Mr. G. Sinclair	Education, Rotherham MBC
Miss C. Kinsella	Education, Rotherham MBC
Mr. P. Hudson	Education, Rotherham MBC
Mrs. J. Chapman	Education, Rotherham MBC

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. E. Ruston, Mr. D. Shevill and from Councillors Boyes and Littleboy.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Rotherham Schools Forum, held on 22nd November, 2004, were agreed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**(a) Free School Meals**

An update of the response from the Benefits Section would be reported at the meeting to be held on 28th January, 2005.

(b) Broadband Internet Connection for Schools

The meeting noted that schools' budgets would be funding 50% of the cost of the Broadband Internet connections; these costs were to be recouped by 2006/07; however, as a result of the implementation delay for some schools, costs will be recovered over a longer time frame into 2007/08.

4. EDUCATION FUNDING 2005/06

The meeting considered a report about the funding to be made available to Education services and to schools, in the 2005/06 financial year, including the proposed timetable for notifying schools of their 2005/06 budgets.

The report and subsequent discussion included the following issues:-

(1) 2005/06 Provisional Settlement

It was noted that Rotherham's overall provisional Education Formula Spending Share (EFSS) increase of 5.18% compared less favourably than the increases nationally and for Metropolitan Districts. Rotherham also ranked as the lowest Authority in South Yorkshire in terms of provisionally allocated Education spend and percentage increase in spend, per pupil. The Authority had asked the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) to re-assess pupil counts, which might serve to increase the EFSS by a relatively small amount.

(2) Central Government Rules for Budget Setting in 2005/06

The meeting noted that the DfES again expected Local Education Authorities to passport the full Schools FSS increase through to their schools' budgets in the 2005/06 financial year, unless there were any exceptional circumstances. The Council had already agreed to passport the whole of the increase of £7.115 millions to schools.

(3) The Operation of the Minimum Funding Guarantee

The report stated that school budgets would again be afforded protection from the operation of a Minimum Funding Guarantee, prescribed by Central Government, as was the case in 2004/05. Schools had been asked to submit their completed ready-reckoners, to facilitate the calculation of the cost of the Guarantee. Further details of this cost would be reported at the meeting to be held on Friday, 28th January, 2005.

(4) The Authority's Budget Strategy for Education Services

The report listed the key pressures on the Education Services budget, which included the School Improvement Service, Education Truancy Officers, Voice and Influence, Early Years Service, Youth Service (NRF Exit Strategy), Youth Enterprise and Community Learning (SRB). Any further clarification received regarding the funding of these pressures would be reported at the next meeting.

(5) Teachers Threshold and Performance Related Pay Grant 2005/06

It was noted that, in the 2005/06 financial year, the Teachers Threshold and Performance Related Pay funding would be paid to the Local Education Authority as a non-ring fenced Specific Formula Grant. The allocation methodology would be considered further at the next meeting of this Forum.

Concerns were expressed about a small minority of schools not having begun the process of reviewing teachers' entitlement, although it was emphasised that payments would be back-dated.

(6) Learning and Skills Council Sixth Form Funding 2005/06

The report stated that the rates for the 2005/06 allocation period for Sixth Form funding would increase by 4%. Similarly, there would be an increase of 4% to the funding relating to the period April to July, 2005. The Learning and Skills Council was responsible for communicating details of the 2005/06 allocations to schools.

(7) School Standards Grant 2005/06

The report included details of the School Standards Grant 2005/06 allocation, which would be increased by 4% per pupil from the previous year. The allocations would be based on schools' PLASC data as at 20th January, 2005 and will include the number of Sixth Form students (nb: this detail was confirmed after the meeting).

(8) Standards Fund 2005/06

The report contained details of the Standards Fund allocation for 2005/06, together with comparative details for the previous financial year. The grants would be classified in the same manner as 2004/05. ie: Schools Development Grant, Targeted/Demand-led Grants, LEA Grants and ICT in Schools. The Forum agreed to the following action:-

- (a) that an allocation of £19,000 be made from the Schools Development Grant as a contribution to the development of the two new Pupil Referral Units;
- (b) that, in view of the significant reduction of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant, further consideration be given to the allocation methodology and the staffing implications, at this Forum's next meeting on 28th January, 2005;
- (c) that, in the 2005/06 financial year, the Local Education Authority shall use the same approach to ICT funding allocations as was used in 2004/05.

(9) Secondary Schools Learning Support Initiative Funding (LSI) 2005/06

The report stated that the Head Teachers of Secondary Schools would be consulted upon the allocation methodology for the LSI Funding for the 2005/06 financial year. The Forum therefore agreed that a report, to include options for LSI Funding allocation in 2005/06, should be submitted to the meeting of the Secondary School Head Teachers to be held on 3rd February, 2005.

(10) The Processing of Special Educational Needs Retrospective Adjustments in 2005/06

The report stated that the Local Education Authority was currently reviewing, with Primary and Secondary representatives, the guidance material in respect of the delegated funding arrangements for supporting pupils with special education needs.

Discussion took place on the operation of the retrospective adjustment, which would form part of the budget shares for schools in 2005/06. In view of the fact that the delegated funding arrangements had first been introduced in April, 2004, the Forum agreed that further training workshops should be arranged.

(11) School Budget Share Formula Issues

The report outlined the Local Education Authority's objective to achieve stability in the funding arrangements for schools, to enable schools to engage in medium-term financial planning. The Forum agreed to the following courses of action:-

(a) to receive a further report on the outcome for all schools of targeting £250,000 funding using a deprivation factor;

(b) for funding purposes, to count three year old pupils as 0.5 full-time equivalents and to amend the Local Education Authority's funding formula for 2005/06 accordingly; the LEA will work directly with the small number of schools affected by this change;

(c) in respect of Sixth Form abatement, to receive from the Learning and Skills Council details of non-AWPU related costs, to consider further whether to change the basis of the abatement calculation within the formula and for the Finance Strategy Team to consider potential alternative abatement calculation methodologies;

(d) in respect of the treatment of Pupil Retention Funding, further information would be submitted to this Forum about the proposal to change the operation of the formula to incorporate some elements of the existing formula for devolving resources which were previously allocated as the Social Inclusion Standards Fund grant, into the main School Funding formula.

(12) School Balances

Consideration of this item was deferred until the meeting to be held on Friday, 28th January, 2005.

(13) School Budget Timetable 2005/06

Consideration of this item was deferred until the meeting to be held on Friday, 28th January, 2005.

5. CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

Consideration of this item was deferred until the meeting to be held on Friday, 28th January, 2005.

6. SCHOOLS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY FUND

Consideration was given to a report about the operation of the Local Education Authority's Schools in Financial Difficulty Fund. Included within the report were the criteria used for supporting schools and the proposed action for operating the Fund in the 2005/06 financial year.

This report would be considered further at the next meeting, to be held on Friday, 28th January, 2005.

7. SCHOOLS' BALANCES

Consideration of this item was deferred until the meeting to be held on Friday, 28th January, 2005.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Rotherham Schools Forum be held at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Friday, 28th January, 2005, commencing at 8.30 a.m.

**EDUCATION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN
MONDAY, 20TH DECEMBER, 2004**

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

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillor Gosling.

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER, 2004

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October, 2004 be received.

12. TEENAGERS TO WORK - UPDATE

In accordance with Minute No. 43 of the Cabinet Member, Social Services, Delegated Powers meeting held on 20th August, 2004 and Minute No. 9(7) of the meeting of the Education of Looked After Children held on 18th October, 2004, the Get Real Team Manager submitted an update report on the Teenagers to Work project.

The Get Real Team Manager reported that young people, in the care of the local authority traditionally under achieved in education and would go on to be over represented in vulnerable groups as adults, namely homeless and unemployed. This was highlighted in the Quality Protects research (1998) which identified significant barriers to achieving in education and hence going on to gain sustainable employment. Attention was turned to improving outcomes for these young people in Education Employment and Training.

In 1999, Rotherham Social Services piloted a project where Looked After Young People spent a day work shadowing Elected Members and Managers within the Council. This proved to be a valuable experience for all involved.

In 2001 a Support Worker was appointed to develop and support young people into placements.

The project aims to improve the employability of this vulnerable group of young people by providing work experience placements which help young people learn the skills necessary to sustain gainful employment and offers support in a number of different ways:-

- Work placements for Year 10 and Year 11 pupils, this can be as a one off package, placements during school holidays, or as a combination of education and employment to enable a young person to successfully completed statutory schooling.
- Work experience placements for school leavers.

- Support into training packages.
- Support around gaining specific skills required for gaining employment. e.g. We recently helped a young person gain a fork lift truck operating licence

The report described project methods, project outcomes and the Rotherham Trainee Initiative.

The report concluded and recommended that the project had gone from strength to strength over the three years of its existence. It had demonstrated the need for intensive support, a flexible and supportive approach and the need for incentives to get young people into the workplace instead of relying upon benefits.

The project needed positive promotion within the Council to enable the provision of training placements in-house for Looked After young people and Care Leavers. Supporting the theme of corporate parents ensures the best possible outcomes of our young people.

One future plan would be to provide a working café which would enable young people to gain skills in all areas of catering, business management, and other related areas as well as having a positive environment to promote work placements. This would initially need a considerable financial contribution but with ongoing low level funding it could be self sustaining and provide a source of employment or local people.

With the substantial growth of the project, the need to make the support worker post permanent had become apparent as had the need for administrative support to the project.

The Panel referred to the placements already secured within the Council and asked if placements could be further explored in other departments, particularly, Libraries for community activities and the arts. It was felt that improved co-ordination was required.

Resolved:- That the report be received and this matter be kept under review.

13. GET REAL TEAM - UPDATE REPORT BY THE GET REAL TEAM MANAGER

Katy Hawkins, Manager of the Get Real Team, gave an update on progress and reported on the following :-

(a) The Team

The team was currently fully staffed. A Team Away day had taken place looking at issues of Quality provision, feedback from stakeholders and developing a Team Mission Statement. This was still in its early stages and a progress report would be given to the Panel in the New Year.

The teaching resource was at full capacity with the highest number of Year 11 pupils since the team began. Discussions were taking place with Senior Management in Education and Social Services regarding the numbers that were not able to access mainstream teaching which had had a major impact on the resources within the team.

There had been some increase in the teaching capacity to help cope with the amount of time being put into the 2 pupils unable to be taught by Whiston Grange and these lines of communication remain open.

There had been a significant increase in the number of Year 8 pupils displaying extremely challenging behaviour in school, which had further added to the team's workload.

(b) Pupils Off School Roll

There were currently four young people off school roll and the action being taken to meet the pupils' educational needs were explained.

(c) Local Public Service Agreement

An analysis of predicted key stage 2 SAT's results had been completed and the Team were currently looking at achieving 52.9%. This would take the Team above the figure required for the PSA agreement which was 44%. However there were many risk factors between now and the sitting of these tests which were beyond the Team's control and could negatively impact upon the final outcome.

The following update was given:

End of Quarter 2 'Proxy measures' data were at

1. Completed Personal Education Plans
Year 6 target 100%, actual 100%
Year 11 target 100%, actual 91.8%
2. % of school attendance
Year 6 target 90%, actual 86.8%
Year 11 target 90%, actual 86.9%
3. Extra Curricular Support
Year 6 target 100%, actual 100%
Year 11 target 100%, actual 100%

(d) Activities for Looked After Children

- A funding bid had been unsuccessful with Yorkshire Arts to undertake a further Drama production. However, RCAT had agreed to reduce their

costings to enable a further drama production to be held.

- Driving lessons were being offered to young people and nineteen young people had been registered for lessons with eight already started.
- There had been significant lobbying from young people, schools, Social Services staff and Foster Carers for another "Young Champions Award Ceremony". Funding for this event was not easy to find. £20,000 would be needed. This event had been held twice in Rotherham since the development of the team and had proven to be highly beneficial to children and young people's self esteem; many other local authorities hold the event on a regular basis.

Katy reported that there was a need to engage a celebrity for this to be a success.

(e) Designated Governors

There was now 100% designated governors in all schools and the questionnaire regarding their training needs was about to be re-issued. A model governor's policy from the DfES website had been located and it was hoped to encourage a small number of Chairs of Governors to assist in developing this policy for Rotherham schools.

(f) Planned Training

- A day's training for Social Workers around the education of Looked After Children had been planned for 17th January, 2005, to be rolled out on a regular basis.
- Conference for Social Services staff, Foster Carers and Residential staff being planned for 3rd March, 2005, along similar lines to the designated teacher and governors conference held in November, 2004. From this it was hoped to hold a Joint Conference later in the year encouraging a more joint approach.
- After consultation with the Provider Services Manager, it had been agreed that in order to continue receiving enhanced payments or to work towards that level of payment, Foster Carers must attend a minimum of two hours training around education issues. From this, more comprehensive packages can be developed based upon their need and engage Carers further. This was planned for early in 2005.
- Planning to set up termly drop-in sessions for designated Teachers, and a termly briefing note starting next term.

(g) Post 16 Awards Ceremony

Katy, thanked Members for attending the Post 16 Awards Ceremony held on 24th November, 2004 which had highlighted some of the very positive

outcomes for young people and also thanked Members for their continued commitment to Looked After Children.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 28TH FEBRUARY, 2005 AT 9.30 AM

The next meeting of the Panel will take place on Monday 28th February, 2005 at 9.30 a.m.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	ECALS Cabinet Member and Advisers
2.	Date:	1 February 2005
3.	Title:	Determination of Catchment Areas for Kimberworth and Meadowhall Primary Schools
4.	Programme Area:	ECALS

5. **Summary:** There is a need to consider and determine separate catchment areas for these two schools before they become through Primary schools (3-11 years) as part of the changes under the PFI project. The changes in age range have previously been agreed by the School Organisation Committee.
6. **Recommendations:** It is recommended that the catchment areas for the two schools identified at Annex 1 are confirmed.

7. **Proposals and Details:** Kimberworth Infant and Meadowhall Junior schools currently share the same catchment area. As separate through Primary schools (3-11 years) however, they will both admit children of the same age. In keeping with the LEA's admissions policy it will, therefore, be necessary to identify separate catchment areas. Accordingly, catchment areas have been drawn up (see Annex 1). Specific consideration has been given to the number of places available in each school, the relative closeness of the schools and the principle that no child should have to walk past a school in order to access the catchment area school applicable to the child's address.

The proposed catchment areas have been considered by the governing bodies of each school. The Kimberworth Infant School Governing Body has put forward a suggestion that a number of streets in the North of the area should be included within that school's catchment rather than Meadowhall's (see Annex 2). The reasoning behind this suggestion was that it would be likely to provide the school with a greater social mix of children.

The possible implications of moving to Annex 2 have been considered and discussed with the Headteachers of both schools.

On balance, the original proposal appears to remain the most appropriate, particularly in relation to the relative size of the schools and the possibility for overcrowding at Kimberworth, which could result if Annex 2 was adopted.

Additionally it should be noted that a number of children currently resident in these roads to the north of the area do currently access St.Bede's Catholic Primary School and the adoption of Annex 1 should provide scope to satisfy parental preference if parents in those streets do prefer Kimberworth school.

8. **Finance:** There are no specific financial considerations in relation to the making of this decision. However, the number of children attending each school will have an influence on schools' budgets in the future, but this will ultimately be determined by the outcome of parental preference.
9. **Risks and Uncertainties:** The main risk in the allocation of catchment areas is that there could be too much demand for a specific school if the number of potential pupils in the catchment is greater than the number of places available. The admissions criteria for community schools in Rotherham allows preferences to be met for the catchment area school as long as the application is made on time (no tie-breaker for distance). This is one of the reasons for rejecting the option of Annex 2.
10. **Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:** There are a number of policy and performance agenda implications surrounding the PFI scheme, which have already been covered in previous reports. This report simply attempts to determine a part of the admission to schools process, which would be seen as fair and in keeping with the current catchment area policy.

- 11. Background Papers and Consultation:** The changes to the two schools were approved by the School Organisation Committee at its meeting held on 27th June, 2001.

Meetings have been held with the two Headteachers and the governors of both schools.

Information has been shared with parents of pupils and further meetings will be scheduled

Contact Name : *Martin Harrop, P.O. Forward Planning, ext 2415*
e-mail: martin.harrop@rotherham.gov.uk