

CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES

Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham.

Date: Tuesday, 12 April 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 previous meeting held on 22nd March, 2005 (copy herewith). (Pages 1 - 6)
- to receive minutes
4. Minutes of a meeting of the Local Admissions Forum held on 17th March, 2005 (copy herewith). (Pages 7 - 9)
- to receive minutes
5. Space for Sport and Arts in Primary Schools Community Access Fund (Tony Preston, Project Development Manager, Culture and Leisure Services) (report herewith). (Pages 10 - 11)
- to consider a process for approving claims to the Community Access Fund
6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

**CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES
TUESDAY, 22ND MARCH, 2005**

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Rushforth.

181. MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of a previous meeting held on 8th March, 2005 were agreed as a correct record.

182. ROTHERHAM CULTURAL CONSORTIUM

Resolved:- That the minutes of a meeting of Rotherham Cultural Consortium held on 16th February, 2005 be received.

183. EDUCATION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Resolved:- That the minutes of a meeting of the Education of Looked After Children held on 28th February, 2005 be received.

184. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUB-GROUP

The minutes of a meeting of the Children and Young People's Sub-Group held on 28th February, 2005 were received.

185. LEISURE/JOINT SERVICE CENTRE PROJECT BOARD

Resolved:- That the minutes of a meeting of the Leisure/Joint Service Centre Project Board held on 4th March, 2005 be received.

186. SCHOOLS PFI PROJECT UPDATE: SPRING TERM 2005

Consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Leader Resources and Information which gave a Project Update on the Schools PFI Project for the Spring Term 2005.

The contract includes the rebuilding/refurbishment of 15 schools and their facilities management for a period of 30 years from 1st April, 2004.

By December 2006, there will be new schools for Coleridge, Ferham, Kimberworth, Maltby Craggs Infant, Maltby Craggs Junior, Meadowhall and Thornhill Primaries; and Winterhill, Wingfield and Wath Secondaries.

Additionally, new key Young Persons' Centres will be provided at Thornhill Primary and Wath Secondary; and significantly refurbished centres at Wingfield, Clifton, Thrybergh and Winterhill Secondary schools.

Progress continues with the project as significant handovers of 3 schools will happen over Easter. Pupils at Wath Comprehensive, A Language College and Maltby Craggs Junior and Infant Schools will enjoy superb learning environments in their new schools after Easter.

Good progress continues to be made at Clifton (Middle Lane site) and Wingfield. Both schools will be completed for September 2005, when the project will have 6 of the 15 schools fully operational.

In addition, other live sites at Wickersley, Thrybergh and Winterhill are making good progress on timetable.

It is a significant period in the project with both completions of schools, and design development of those projects still to start their building programme. This applies to Kimberworth Infant, Meadowhall Junior, Coleridge, Clifton Upper, East Dene and Wath Central. Plans are being drawn up to incorporate Childrens Centre/Multi Service Centres in the developments at both Coleridge/Clifton Upper and Kimberworth Infant. These will become exciting campus developments, meeting the expectations in Every Child Matters.

Improvements continue to be made in the arrangements for facilities management.

Building Learning Communities Limited is now incorporated and has responsibility for community provision, including the arrangements for lettings. It is hoped that the company through a newly appointed General Manager can take full responsibility by September 2005.

Resolved:- That the progress on the Schools PFI Project be noted.

187. PROPOSAL TO MAKE PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO THE AGE RANGE AT LISTERDALE JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL

Consideration was given to a report of the School Organisation, Planning and Development Manager which gave details of a proposal to make prescribed alteration to the age range at Listerdale Junior and Infant School.

Listerdale Junior and Infant School is currently a 4-11 age range school. It is proposed that internal adaptations are carried out in order to make accommodation suitable for younger children in a Foundation Unit.

To allow younger pupils to be admitted the age range for the school has to be changed. This report confirms the statutory consultation process that must be undertaken to change the existing age range from 4-11 to 3-11 years.

The school will have 210 places (R-Y6) with a foundation stage unit able to accommodate up to 30 pupils on a part-time basis (15 pupils in the

morning and 15 in the afternoon). The admission number of 30 to the school (reception onwards) is unchanged.

The report outlined the advantages of the Foundation Stage in meeting the needs of children and parents and gave details of the consultation timetable.

Resolved:- (1) That consultation on the proposal is commenced.

(2) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting with details of the outcome of the consultation.

188. PROPOSAL TO MAKE PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO THE AGE RANGE AT BRINSWORTH HOWARTH JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL

Consideration was given to a report of the School Organisation, Planning and Development Manager on a proposal to make prescribed alteration to the age range at Brinsworth Howarth Junior and Infant School.

Brinsworth Howarth Junior and Infant School is currently a 4-11 age range school. It is proposed that internal adaptations are carried out in order to make accommodation suitable for younger children in a Foundation Unit.

To allow younger pupils to be admitted, the age range for the school has to be changed. This report confirms the statutory consultation process that must be undertaken to change the existing age range from 4-11 to 3-11 years.

The school will have 210 places (R-Y6) with a foundation stage unit able to accommodate up to 30 pupils on a part-time basis (15 pupils in the morning and 15 in the afternoon). The admission number of 30 to the school (reception onwards) is unchanged.

The report set out the advantages to be gained of the Foundation Stage provision, both for the needs of children and parents, and gave details of the consultation timetable.

Resolved:- (1) That consultation on the proposal is commenced.

(2) That a report be submitted to a future meeting with details of the outcome of the consultation.

189. ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS ENTERPRISE PROJECT

Consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Leader Resources and Information with regard to the Rotherham Schools Enterprise Project (working title) which has been awarded £1.4M of Single Pot funding via the Yorkshire Forward Sub-Regional Investment Plan.

As project sponsor the Education Culture and Leisure Services is required to tender and contract for the delivery of the project outputs for the period April 2005 to March 2009.

The report set out the following details:-

- Agencies contributing towards the Project
- Aims/Objectives/Cross cutting themes of the Project
- Tendering Process
- LEA Funding
- Project Activity

The project is fully funded through the Yorkshire Forward Single Investment plan for four years.

Match funding for the project will be provided by:-

- Rotherham Learning Partnership – Young Enterprise Project (TEC Attributable Funding)
- Rotherham Secondary Schools – Standards Fund for Key Stage 4 Activity

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

(2) That the commencement of the tendering process, including the submission of the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) advertisement be approved.

(3) That the engagement of Legal Services to support and progress the tendering and contracting process be approved.

(4) That a report be submitted to a future meeting on completion of the shortlisting exercise.

190. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AS AT JANUARY, 2005

Consideration was given to the eighth Budget Monitoring report of the Strategic Leader Resources and Information for the Programme Area in 2004/05.

The report gave a current forecast to overspend against budget for the financial year by £566k (0.35%).

This relates to budget pressures in both Culture and Leisure Services (£565k) and Education Services (£1k).

The report included details of a variance analysis.

The forecast Programme Area overspend is due to the Culture and Leisure Services overspend which primarily relates to continued pressure

on sport and recreational facility budgets, as experienced in previous years (£565k).

In addition, Culture and Heritage forecast an overspend of £115k mainly due to a shortfall in income, due in part to a loss of room hire income at the Arts Centre due to the utilisation of the room as a call centre and the temporary closure of Clifton Park Museum.

The Culture and Leisure overspend is partly offset by a saving on the Library Service budget resulting from a moratorium on procurement spending and slippage in staff recruitment (£67k).

Education Services are expected to outturn on budget.

The forecast outturn as at January (£566k) shows an increase of £13k to the overspend reported in December. All possible action is being taken to minimise overspending in the Programme Area, as detailed in the report submitted.

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

(The Chairman authorised consideration of the following item in order to expedite the matter referred to without delay)

191. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (details of terms proposed to the authority in the course of negotiations for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services).

192. HERRINGTHORPE PLAYING FIELDS - LEASE AGREEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Leader Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning which contained details of an opportunity to work in partnership with Rotherham Rugby Union Football Club (RRUFC), to support the Council's aspirations to develop Herringthorpe Playing Fields.

This would involve the Council agreeing to lease a section of the playing fields, large enough to accommodate 3 rugby pitches and a section of the changing pavilion.

The report set out the details of the proposal which included potential funding opportunities, development of Green Spaces Strategy, community

consultation and the underlying principle of the development.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposal to lease a section of the playing field and changing pavilion to RRUFC be agreed in principle.

(2) That a request to enter into discussions with RRUFC in order to develop a draft set of terms for the lease agreement be approved.

(3) That a report be submitted to a future meeting once agreement has been reached on a draft set of terms.

**LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM
THURSDAY, 17TH MARCH, 2005**

Present:- Mrs. I. G. Hartley (in the Chair) (School Governors); Councillor Boyes (Rotherham LEA), Mr. B. N. Sampson (Church of England), Mr. P. Storey (Diocese of Hallam) and Mr. G. Lancashire (Junior and Infant Schools).

12. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Austen and Hodgkiss, Mrs. G. Atkin, Mrs. P. Powell, Mr. F. Hedge, Mr. F. McDermott, and Mr. M. Robertson.

13. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH NOVEMBER, 2004

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 11th November, 2004, were accepted as a true record.

14. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 20TH JANUARY, 2005

The minutes of the meeting of the School Organisation Committee, held on 20th January, 2005, were received and their contents noted.

15. ADMISSIONS TO SCHOOLS 2006/07 - CONSULTATION REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Leader Resources and Information which covered issues that have arisen as a result of the annual consultation exercise with and between schools and other Local Education Authorities on school admission arrangements for the Admission Year 2006/07.

Annex 1 provided details of the LEA's consultation document relating to community and controlled schools. The admissions criteria are unchanged from the previous year and there has been no specific feedback from consultees on this.

Proposed admission numbers for community and controlled schools had, in the main, been agreed by school governing bodies. There had been some feedback and details were indicated at Annex 2 to the report.

Aided schools have also been taking part in the consultation and for this year this has been facilitated by use of the LEA's internet site. Details of aided schools proposed admission number and admissions criteria have been included on the site.

There has been no specific feedback on the consultation regarding the co-ordinated admission schemes. The period for consultation ended on

1st March, 2005 and determinations by admission authorities had to be made by 15th April, 2005.

The Local Admissions Forum also noted that there would be further consideration of the admission number for Aston Comprehensive School.

Agreed:- That the information about schools' proposed admission numbers for 2006/07, contained in the report now submitted, be received.

16. CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2005/06

The Local Admissions Forum discussed the co-ordinated arrangements for the admission of pupils to schools at the beginning of the 2005/06 academic year. The co-ordinated arrangements were being operated this year, for the first time in Rotherham. The following points were noted:-

- offer letters for admissions to Secondary Schools had been issued in accordance with the timescale on 1st March, 2005;
- offer letters for admissions to Primary Schools would be issued in accordance with the timescale on 1st April, 2005;
- 94% of parents had been offered a school place for their child at their first preference secondary school;
- 37 parents had not been offered a place for their child at any of their original three preferred secondary schools; these pupils would later be offered a place either at their catchment area school, or, if that school was already full, at another community school with places;
- a number of parents had, at a later stage, asked for their child to be placed on the waiting list for the school which had been their second or third preferred school;
- there had been fewer calls from irate parents than in previous years and, to date, no parent had questioned the operation of the co-ordinated admission arrangements;
- there was a positive working relationship with school admissions staff in the Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield Local Education Authorities;
- to date, there had been fewer admission appeals received by the Council.

The Local Admissions Forum placed on record its appreciation of the work of the school admissions staff in successfully implementing the co-ordinated admissions arrangements and agreed that a letter of congratulation be sent to the staff concerned.

17. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FORM - CHURCH OF ENGLAND

SCHOOLS

The Local Admissions Forum noted the alterations which had been made to the additional information form to be used by Church of England Schools when requesting details of children who wished to be admitted to those schools.

18. HARD TO PLACE CHILDREN - DEVELOPING AND AGREEING A PROTOCOL

The Local Admissions Forum considered a report of the Executive Director of Education, Culture and Leisure Services concerning the Government's Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners and the way this Strategy highlighted the need for schools to work together in providing school places for hard to place children. The Government expected every Local Admissions Forum to agree a protocol for sharing hard to place pupils and the protocol would have to be agreed with schools and be in operation at the start of the school year beginning on 1st September, 2005.

In discussing this issue, the Local Admissions Forum took note of advice received from the Department for Education and Skills, as well as a sample protocol and factors to be taken into account in the preparing a successful protocol.

The Local Admissions Forum noted that the protocol for Rotherham schools was currently being prepared by a multi-disciplinary team, co-ordinated by the Local Education Authority. The draft protocol would be issued to Members of the Local Admissions Forum in advance of the next meeting, enabling the protocol to be fully debated and agreed at the Admission Forum's next meeting on 21st July, 2005.

19. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting be arranged for Thursday, 21st July, 2005, commencing at 9.30 a.m.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Education, Culture & Leisure Cabinet Member and Advisors
2.	Date:	12th April 2005
3.	Title:	Space for Sport & Arts in Primary Schools Community Access Fund
4.	Programme Area:	Education, Culture & Leisure

- 5. Summary:** During the development of the £2.6m Space for Sport & Arts programme, it became clear that the funding bodies required community access to new facilities in deprivation communities to be affordable. On that basis, members agreed in 2001 to create a Community Access Fund which would enable the LEA to provide a subsidy for local people to access the new facilities. The programme has now reached the end of its first full year (2004-05), and the Community Access Fund has worked well by targeting a substantial number of low income participants in sport or arts groups.

In order to ensure proper budgetary control and to establish a baseline for comparative levels of take-up at the five different schools in the programme, requests for subsidy have in this first year been approved on a one-by-one basis at LEA level. In the light of this first year's experience and take-up, a different process is proposed for 2005-06 which will streamline procedures and make better use of the funding available.

- 6. Recommendations:**

That Members approve a streamlined process for approving claims to the Community Access Fund which provides a better level of financial control over the funding; and that part of the total fund is used proactively to add value to the forthcoming Community Coaching Initiative.

7. **Proposals and Details:** In the financial year 2005-06, £18,200 is available to help support community use at the five schools in the programme (Rawmarsh Rosehill J, Ferham Primary, St Ann's J & I, High Greave J, and Thurcroft J). It is proposed that an allowance of £1,800 per school at Rosehill, High Greave and St Ann's is made (this figure reflects take up during 2004-05, takes account of inflation, and allows a reasonable level of growth). At Ferham £1,800 would be allocated to Building Learning Communities (the not-for-profit company which handles community access to the PFI schools) for use within an agreed framework to benefit Ferham residents. At Thurcroft £1,000 each would be allocated to each of the three stakeholder organisations (the school itself, the community library and the Schools Music Service) to support community access to facilities. Each school or stakeholder would approve eligible applications from local groups for financial support during the course of the financial year up to its budgetary ceiling, and legitimate claims would be reimbursed directly into school budgets at the end of the financial year on submission by the school of appropriate documentation. This process would ensure that budgetary responsibility remained with the body authorising the financial support, and that an audit trail existed to ensure that the funding was being used for the purpose for which it was intended.

It is proposed that the £8,000 balance of funding is used as match funding to support the successful application to DCMS/Sport England for a Community Coaching programme which was approved by Sport England just before Easter. This three-year initiative will focus on a community-based sports coaching scheme with a particular brief in disabilities and mentoring. Some of the venues needed for this programme will be supplied through the Space for Sport & Arts programme: many of the beneficiaries will inevitably be local residents, and so the original purpose of the Community Access Fund will continue to be met.

8. **Finance:** All costs will be met within existing revenue budgets.
9. **Risks and Uncertainties:** None.
10. **Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:** The proposal meets the corporate priorities of Rotherham Alive, Rotherham Learning and Rotherham Safe. It also helps address the Culture & Leisure Service Plan priority of contributing to safer, stronger neighbourhoods through the active engagement of priority communities in cultural activity.
11. **Background Papers and Consultation:** Minute No 3 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Education, Culture & Leisure Services dated 9 October 2001: establishment of a Community Access Fund

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