

CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE

Venue: Town Hall,
Moorgate Street,
Rotherham.

Date: Tuesday, 21st February 2006

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 previous meetings held on 24th and 31st January, 2006 (copies herewith). (Pages 1 - 5)
4. Minutes of a Meeting of Rotherham Schools Forum held on 27th January, 2006 (copy herewith). (Pages 6 - 9)
5. Proposal to make prescribed alteration to the Age Range at East Dene Junior & Infant School (David Hill, School Organisation, Planning and Development Manager) (report herewith). (Pages 10 - 14)
- to consider that the proposal is begun and that a further report be brought to members with details of the outcome of the consultation
6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE
Tuesday, 24th January, 2006

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Littleboy.

156. ACCREDITATION FOR MUSEUMS - THE NEW NATIONAL STANDARDS SCHEME

In accordance with Minute No. 59 of a meeting of the Cabinet Member, Lifelong Learning held on 26th July 2005, consideration was given to a report of the Libraries, Museums and Arts Manager which contained details of the Accreditation for Museums – the new National Standards Scheme.

The Museum Accreditation Scheme is the national minimum set of standards for UK museums. It replaces the existing Registration Scheme, under which Clifton Park Museum, Rotherham Art Gallery and the York and Lancaster Regimental Museum have been Registered as fit for purpose. All three museums will be invited to apply for Accredited Status in January, 2006.

The Accreditation Standards are divided into 4 sections: Governance and Museum Management; User Services; Visitor Facilities; and Collections Management.

The single greatest strength of the Service in relation to meeting the Standards is the recent improvements to user services and visitor facilities at Clifton Park Museum. However, the limited capacity of the Service has meant that this has only been achieved by scaling back on delivery and the planning of improvements at both the other museums. Similarly, the long-term focus on creating the new displays at Clifton Park Museum has, through lack of staff time and resources, witnessed a general slippage of standards for Collections Management.

In addition, a report by Internal Audit in July 2005 on the Control and Security of Collections, recommended improvements to aspects of the collections management to reduce the risk of loss. These issues would need to be addressed to meet the Accreditation Standard.

The Accreditation Standards are both more challenging and wider ranging than those covered by the existing Registration Scheme. Failure to achieve Accreditation will have serious implications and the work required must be planned for and delivered before the submission deadline of July 2006 of the Museums, Libraries and Arts Council.

The report set out the implications of meeting the Accreditation Standards and the investment required.

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

(2) That the Head of Culture and Leisure liaise with the Executive Director of Finance to ensure the financial implications of meeting the Museum Accreditation Standards are being considered as part of the budget setting process for 2006-07.

(3) That a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet Member, Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure.

157. CHANGES TO HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT FINANCE 2006

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Head of Service, Resources and Access, Children and Young People's Services on the details of changes to the Higher Education Student Finance 2006 scheme.

From 1st September 2006, English Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) can charge a variable tuition fee of up to £3,000 for each year of an undergraduate course.

Previously students have been charged up to £1200 tuition fees and assessed for a tuition fee grant according to household income. From 2006 however, all new students, regardless of their financial circumstances, will be obliged to pay the fees charged by their university (maximum £3000 per year).

In addition, along with the higher tuition fee, a new package of living cost support will be introduced. The £3,000 cap on fees cannot be raised by more than inflation before 2010 at the earliest. Payment of the new tuition fee can be deferred until the end of a student's course by the student taking out a loan to cover the cost during the course.

Those students who started courses before 1st September 2006, 'existing students', will remain on the current package of financial support and be charged an annual tuition fee of around £1,200 for each year of the course.

The report set out both the financial support package for new students starting undergraduate courses from September 2006, and for existing students who started courses before 1st September, 2006.

The level of applications will be assessed for the 2006/07 cycle in order to gain an indication of whether the increased fees have had an impact upon take-up rates for higher education amongst Rotherham students. Currently approximately 33% of school leavers progress to higher education courses, leading to 3,000 applications for financial support.

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

(2) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting containing details of the number of Rotherham applications for financial support in

each Ward of the Borough, in comparison to National statistics.

158. REVIEW OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT FINANCE DELIVERY

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Head of Service, Resources and Access, Children and Young People's Services which contained details of a Review of Higher Education Student Finance Delivery by the DfES.

The DfES is currently conducting an end-to-end review of student finance delivery in England to consider centralisation of the service presently operated by Local Authorities in partnership with the Student Loans Company (SLC).

Rotherham MBC receives and processes over 3000 applications for Higher Education Student Finance each year, in accordance with the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998, the Education (Student Support) Regulations and the functions transferred by the Secretary of State to Local Authorities in England.

Application statistics suggest that on average 33% of school leavers progress to Higher Education each year in Rotherham (1998 to 2005).

The report set out details of the Authority's Service Level Agreements and the Authority's performance against main agreed processing targets, which it was noted had been very good this year, together with two business models chosen for the pilot scheme.

This end-to-end review, which would be considering how the present student finance can be made more customer-focused, efficient and sufficiently flexible to respond to possible future changes in higher education, will be considering:

- the needs of customers, including the provision of advice and the needs of under-represented student groups;
- the efficiency and effectiveness of delivery processes and use of technology;
- clear objectives and challenging performance measures, benchmarked against comparable services;
- the relationship between the DfES and current/future delivery partner(s), allocation of responsibility and management of risks;
- value-for-money and sufficient flexibility to deal with possible future changes in the higher education system

The Department will conduct a Student Finance Delivery pilot scheme in the academic year 2006/2007 to assess the impact of different delivery models on services.

If it is concluded that Student Finance functions should be fully or partially centralised, it is likely that an adjustment will have to be made to the Local

Authority's Formula Spending Share to reflect the transfer of student finance function to another body.

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

(2) That a letter be sent to Head Teachers and Governing Bodies of the relevant schools in Rotherham, informing them of the details of the changes to tuition fees, as contained in the report now submitted.

(3) That a letter be sent to the Secretary of State for Education, and local M.Ps, highlighting the concerns of the Cabinet Member, Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure of the implications of the rise in charges, as discussed.

159. 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 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

160. HERRINGTHORPE LEISURE COMPLEX AND COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB CONSULTANCY EXERCISE

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Culture and Leisure which sought permission to engage a known firm of consultants to undertake a feasibility study on the Herringthorpe Leisure Complex and Nursery Site.

The report set out the detail of the rationale behind the proposal and the work required to undertake a study of the Herringthorpe/Nursery site, together with the timescales required.

The study was to be funded from the Housing Renewal Pathfinder Fund.

The Head of Legal Services was in agreement to the proposal.

Resolved:- (1) That in accordance with Standing Order 42, a contract be established with Strategic Leisure Limited to undertake a feasibility study of possible opportunities for the Herringthorpe Leisure Complex, and community sports hub, as a consequence of the circumstances outlined in the report, now submitted, and having regard to the representations of the Officer.

(2) That the result of the exercise be presented to the Cabinet Member, Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure before the end of March 2006.

(Exempt under Paragraph 8 of the Act – report contains financial information relating to a contract for the supply of goods or services).

**CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE
Tuesday, 31st January, 2006**

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Austen.

161. MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 17TH JANUARY, 2006

The minutes of a previous meeting held on 17th January, 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

162. WALKER MAUSOLEUM - PETITION

Consideration was given to a petition containing 353 signatures which had been presented to a Council meeting from the Friends of Masbrough Chapel and the Walker Mausoleum regarding the need to secure access to the Masbrough Chapel graveyard and Walker Mausoleum.

The report set out the background on the matter.

The Cabinet Member was informed that Legal Services was drafting an Access Agreement to ensure the owner of the Masbrough Chapel allowed access to the graveyard and Mausoleum for maintenance purposes.

Once the Access Agreement is in place, external funding would be sought to carry out the necessary work to the Mausoleum and graveyard.

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

(2) That a report be submitted to a future meeting which gave an update on the matter, following a meeting with Legal Services.

(3) That the concern of the Cabinet Member and Advisors at the numerous delays that have been associated with this matter, which were not attributed to a lack of attention within Culture and Leisure Services, be noted.

(4) That the Friends of Masbrough Chapel and the Walker Mausoleum be informed of the current situation.

**(THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM
IN ORDER TO KEEP MEMBERS FULLY INFORMED ON THE MATTER)**

163. CLIFTON PARK MUSEUM

The Libraries, Museums and Arts Manager reported that, following a very successful weekend to celebrate the first year of its re-opening, a total of 101,126 visitors had visited Clifton Park Museum.

Resolved:- That the information be noted with pleasure.

ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS FORUM
27th January, 2006

Present:-

Mr. L. Morton (in the Chair).	Head Teacher, Secondary School
Mr. D. Shevill	Head Teacher, Secondary School
Ms. J. Nicholson	Head Teacher, Secondary School
Mr. A. Staton	Head Teacher, Primary School
Mrs. A. Jones	Head Teacher, Primary School
Mr. P. Leach	Head Teacher, Special School
Reverend Mrs. A. Wood	School Governor
Mr. G. Fisher	Learning & Skills Council
Councillor G. Boyes	Rotherham MBC
Mr. D. Ridgeway	Non-Teaching Unions
Mr. M. Storey	Non Teaching Unions
Graham Sinclair	Rotherham MBC
Mr. P. Hudson	Rotherham M.B.C.
Helen Longland	Rotherham MBC
Mariam Haque	Rotherham MBC

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Austen, and Littleboy, Mrs. J. Turner, Mr. P. Marshall and Mr. P. Hawkridge.

38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th December, 2005 were agreed as a correct record.

39. ETHNIC MINORITY ACHIEVEMENT STRATEGY

A presentation was given which informed the meeting of the following in respect of Rotherham's EMAG :-

- Planning for Improvement
 - EDP priorities
 - target setting for Minority Ethnic pupils
 - community strategy to reduce gaps in performance
 - single plan to reduce inequalities and improve attainment
 - local area agreement aimed at rising levels of attainment

- EMAG Funding Changes

The grant allocation and basis of allocation was set out for both 2004/05 and 2005/06.

The grant allocation for 2006/07 and proposed allocation

basis was also outlined.

- EAL Population figures
- Priorities for SEMC
- Outcome of the consultation process with schools on EMAG principles and proposals

Subsequent comments on the presentation included reference to :-

(a) clarification of the EMAG funding changes and achievement of adjustments for 2006/7 compared with previous years'

(b) the distribution of the funding e.g. use of the settlement headroom;

(c) the creation of bi-lingual support officer posts;

(d) distribution of funding to support pupils with SEN Statements and the view that this should be on a need basis, not by use of the 10% factor;

(e) funding for Ethnic Minority Groups should go to the most vulnerable in those groups.

Agreed:- (1) That the presentation be received and the comments noted.

(2) That officers give consideration to (d) above, involving further investigation and research.

40. FEEDBACK FROM SCHOOLS FUNDING PROPOSALS

Pete Hudson went through the results of the consultation with schools on proposals to change local funding arrangements.

An analysis of the results was submitted, a summary is set out below, and discussions took place on the results.

Positive Responses	Overall	Secondary
SEN (via a new formula not matrix)	92%	56%
LSI (via proposed SEN formula)		63%
SPLD (via AWPU)		56%
PRG (50% Soc. Dep., 50% AWPU)		69%
EMAG (10% + ME population)	89%	56%
3% Cash Floor (from 5%)	98%	81%
SIFD Support (£10k + only)	95%	94%
Flower Beds (via AWPU)	95%	63%

Transitional Protection (3 years)	95%	75%
2006 Implementation Date	86%	56%
2008 Implementation Date	16%	56%

Whilst there was agreement to the principle of the proposals, particular discussion took place on the consultation/voting process and whether the results fully reflected the views of schools.

In addition to the above, comments were made in relation to:-

- the preferred implementation date of the changes to the budget formula
- concern relating to the means of distributing future funding for flower beds
- distribution of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant and the ethnic minority related part of Social Deprivation funding

The Schools Forum accepted the following recommendations which the majority results from the consultation process indicated :-

- o implement the proposals in full as described in the Consultation
- o implement from April 2006
- o apply 3 year Transitional Protection

Protection Mechanisms to be implemented

- o minimum funding guarantee (MFG)
- o 3% cash floor in formula
- o 3 year Transitional Protection
- o Schools in financial difficulty (if required)
- o SEN retrospective adjustment (allocate positive adjustments, scale back negative adjustments)

Further Recommendations

- o Review the entire Funding Formula over the next two years with support from the Finance Strategy Team and the newly formed Headteachers Finance Forum
- o Newly formed SEN formula group to review both High Incidence and Exceptional Needs formula basis over the next two years
- o Undertake an analysis of per pupil funding in Secondary Schools taking into account ALL funding streams

The Chair of Rotherham Schools Forum, on behalf of Secondary Heads and as mandated by them, informed the meeting of their majority view on the proposed formula changes and submitted the following resolution to the Forum:-

“Following in-depth discussions and consultation, secondary headteachers wish to maintain the status quo for 2006-07 formula and seek further full review of the principle and philosophy of an inclusive agenda”.

Agreed:- (1) That the outcome of the Schools Funding Consultation be noted.

(2) That a report on the consultation feedback be submitted to the appropriate Cabinet Members, the report to include reference to the mandate from the majority of secondary heads.

41. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 16th March, 2006, and that the agenda would include an item relating to Out of School Authority Placements.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure Cabinet Member and Advisers
2.	Date:	21 st February, 2006
3.	Title:	Proposal to make prescribed alteration to the age range at East Dene Junior and Infant School.
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People's Services Ward 12

5. Summary

East Dene Junior and Infant School is currently a 4-11 age range school. It is proposed that a Foundation Unit is incorporated into the new school which is being built as part of the Schools' PFI Project.

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.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that consultation on the proposal is begun and that a further report be brought to Members with details of the outcome of the consultation.

7. Proposals and Details

It is proposed to make a prescribed alteration to East Dene Junior and Infant School from September 2006. There will be a change in the age range of the school from its existing age range of 4-11 years to 3-11 years.

The school will have 350 places (R-Y6) with a foundation stage unit that can accommodate up to 50 pupils on a part-time basis (25 pupils in the morning and 25 in the afternoon). The admission number of 50 to the school (reception onwards) will replace the former admission number of 60 with in 2006/07.

The advantages of the Foundation Stage include:

Youngest children are placed in appropriate provision with high adult/child ratios. The needs of children and parents are met, value is given to the Foundation Stage in the context of the whole school and optimum utilisation of resources and equipment is achieved.

Numbers on roll

Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Number on roll	371	357	350	334	309

8. Finance

The building costs would be met through PFI. Costs associated with the admission of younger age children would be funded through the Fair Funding Scheme.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

None envisaged.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The major theme supported by the introduction of the Foundation Stage is “everyone has access to skill, knowledge and information needed to enable them to play a full part in society”. It is believed that some of the advantages of the Foundation Stage as described in ‘Appendix A’ will contribute to this.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

‘Appendix A’ provides background information to support the proposal.

The consultation timetable is:

Report to Cabinet Member and Advisors)	21 st February, 2006
Consultation with Parents)	
Consultation with Staff)	March/April 2006
Consultation with School Governors)	
Consultation with Early Years Partnership)	
Publication of Statutory Notices		5 th May, 2006
6 week period for representations and objections closes		16 th June, 2006
LEA/School Organisation Committee		by 14 th July, 2006
Implementation Date		1 st September 2006

Contact Name : David Hill, School Organisation, Planning and Development Manager
Tel: 822536,
e-mail, david-education.hill @rotherham.gov.uk

Background Information on the Foundation Stage Units

NURSERY RATIONALISATION THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOUNDATION STAGE UNITS

It is well recognised and supported by research that the early years of a child's educational life provide the basis upon which all later achievement is based. The development of Foundation Stage units across the borough along with the rationalisation of places will build upon Rotherham's already high quality provision ensuring a strong secure start for all.

Aims

- ❖ To ensure children have access to appropriate provision at the right time and that our youngest children remain in the non-maintained sector benefiting from high adult /child ratios
- ❖ To provide equitable early years provision in the maintained sector across the borough
- ❖ To develop working partnerships between maintained and non-maintained providers to meet the needs of children and parents
- ❖ To ensure all Rotherham children have access to high quality early years education and parents are given a choice as to who provides this
- ❖ To raise the baseline profile
- ❖ To remove surplus nursery places

Current Issues

- ❖ Over provision of LEA places in some areas of the borough and under provision in others
- ❖ LEA provision taking in younger children to cope with falling roles
- ❖ Reception curriculum is not universally appropriate early years provision
- ❖ Foundation stage now recognised as a key stage in its own right
- ❖ Continuity and progression between nursery and reception classes which are often in separate buildings
- ❖ Continuity and progression with the non-maintained sector
- ❖ Introduction of a foundation stage profile from September 2002
- ❖ Low baseline profile

Vision

- ❖ Universal quality early years education across the borough, resulting in a raising of attainment on entry and consequent raising of attainment/achievement throughout. A strong curriculum/care partnership between the maintained and non maintained sector.

Principles

- ❖ Formal curriculum/care partnerships are developed between non-maintained and maintained providers
- ❖ Nursery and Reception children use the same space
- ❖ Resources are shared – variety of models
- ❖ Shared QCA foundation stage curriculum
- ❖ Shared system of planning and record keeping- carefully differentiated
- ❖ Access to outdoor play for all foundation stage children- foundation stage expectation outlined in the QCA guidance
- ❖ No imposition of inappropriate whole school routines
- ❖ Environment geared to children making their own choices
- ❖ Good adult child ratios allowing for maximum input at this vital stage

Advantages

- ❖ Youngest children are in appropriate provision with high adult/child ratios
- ❖ Maintained/non-maintained partnerships ensure continuity of care/curriculum.
- ❖ The needs of children and parents are met
- ❖ Value given to the Foundation Stage in the context of the whole school
- ❖ Staff are able to work collaboratively
- ❖ Units provide a basis for positive and supportive relationships with parents and carers
- ❖ Optimum utilisation of resources and equipment

Strategy

- ❖ To introduce foundation stage units in each school across the borough in a staged programme. To develop close formalised partnerships between maintained and non-maintained settings, providing quality early education for three and four year olds.