

CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE

Venue: Town Hall,
Moorgate Street,
Rotherham.

Date: Tuesday, 4th April 2006

Time: 8.45 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 meeting held on 14th March, 2006 (Pages 1 - 5)
- to receive minutes
4. Joint Service Centre Project Board (Pages 6 - 8)
- to receive minutes
5. Education of Looked After Children (Pages 9 - 11)
- to receive minutes
6. Permission to retrospectively suspend Standing Order 44 (Pages 12 - 13)
- to consider a request to retrospectively suspend Standing Order 44
7. Purchasing of Sailing Boats at Rother Valley Country Park (Pages 14 - 15)
- to consider an exemption under Standing Order 35
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE
14th March, 2006

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

182. ADMISSIONS TO SCHOOLS 2007/08 - CONSULTATION REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Head of Service, Resources and Access, Children & Young People's Services which detailed a number of issues that had arisen as a result of the annual consultation exercise with and between schools and other LEAs. All admission authorities must determine their arrangements by 15th April 2006.

Annex 1 gave details of the LEA's consultation document, which had been considered by governing bodies during the Autumn Term 2005.

The proposed admissions criteria for community and controlled schools differed from those applicable in the previous year in two respects:-

- i) removal of 'Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs' from the criteria, and
- ii) the introduction of a distance tie-breaker where the admission number is reached mid-category.

Community and controlled schools have also been consulted on their proposed admission number and voluntary-aided schools have had the opportunity to consider both their admission criteria and admission number.

All feedback received by the Authority was summarised in Annex 2, which also included further information on the recently published Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposed admission numbers contained within Annex 1 for community/controlled schools be confirmed for 2007/08, subject to the clarifications/amendments contained in Annex 2 Ai.

(2) That the proposed amendments to the admissions criteria for community/controlled schools for 2007/08 in respect of children with statements of SEN, the use of a tie-breaker and necessary changes relating to 'relevant looked after children' be confirmed.

(3) That the changes shown at Annex 2B in respect of voluntary aided schools be noted.

(4) That the appropriate notice be published in respect of the proposed admission numbers for schools named in Annex 2C, where the admission number will be less than that indicated by the current net capacity calculation.

(5) That all admission authorities be informed of the necessary changes brought about by the Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006.

(6) That the co-ordinated admissions schemes for both Primary and Secondary schools be confirmed and forwarded to the Secretary of State as required.

(7) That the report be forwarded to the Local Admissions Forum (LAF) for consideration at its next meeting.

(8) That a progress report be submitted to a future meeting on the effect the changes in admission criteria have had on the admissions process for 2007/08.

183. PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE MALTBY MANOR INFANT AND MALTBY MANOR JUNIOR SCHOOLS

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 proposal to consult on the amalgamation of Maltby Manor Infant and Maltby Manor Junior Schools by closing both schools and opening a new Maltby Manor Primary School.

Cabinet Member and Advisors have previously agreed to consult as appropriate where two schools meet the considerations for amalgamation which are described in the 'School Organisation Plan'.

It is proposed to amalgamate Maltby Manor Infant and Maltby Manor Junior Schools from January 2007. To do this both Maltby Manor Infant and Maltby Manor Junior Schools will be closed and a new Maltby Manor Primary school with an age range of 3-11 years will be opened. The new Primary school will accommodate the same number of pupils as are currently accommodated within the two schools.

The new School would have 420 places (R-Y6) with a Nursery unit of up to 52 places (26FTE). (This is the combined numbers of the current two schools). The school would have an admission number of 60.

The report set out two principal objectives of the amalgamation.

Resolved:- (1) That the consultation on the proposal to the amalgamation of Maltby Manor Infant and Maltby Manor Junior Schools, by closing both schools and opening a new Maltby Manor Primary School, as described in Appendix A, is begun.

(2) That a progress report be submitted to a future meeting on the effect the changes in admission criteria have had on the admissions process for

2007/08.

184. WORK TO REDUCE BUREAUCRACY LINKED TO THE PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Head of Service Inclusion Voice and Influence which gave an update in relation to a letter from the Rt. Hon. Ruth Kelly, to Chief Education Officers/Director of Children's Services about reducing bureaucracy linked to the provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs.

A recent meeting with the DfES SEN Adviser indicates that Rotherham is making positive steps to achieve this.

The report set out the work carried out throughout 2004-05 by the Inclusion, Voice and Influence team who had looked critically at the systems for planning, assessing, reviewing and making provision for children with SEN, working with schools and the workforce re-modelling team to continue to ensure proper accountability.

The report included details of:-

- the assessment process and accountability
- provision to develop the work on the monitoring and evaluation of SEN
- provision across schools in Rotherham
- changes to the SEN funding formula for schools

The key elements of the work was to reduce reliance on statements, the need to implement holistic planning and reduce IEPs, and to progress the work of e-enabled communication.

Discussion took place regarding training issues and the role of RBT in the use of ICT systems and data collection, and statutory duties of Local Authorities.

Resolved:- That the report be received.

(The Chairman authorised consideration of the following two items to prevent any unnecessary delay in processing the matters referred to)

185. 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in those paragraphs indicated below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

186. LEASE OF LORDENS HILL RECREATION GROUND, DINNINGTON TO CULTURE & LEISURE

Consideration was given to a report of the Green Spaces Manager, Culture and Leisure which contained a number of options for the future management of the above site and to ensure proper consideration is given to the long term strategy for the site in line with Council service priorities.

The lease between CISWO and this Authority for the former miners welfare building and associated recreation ground at Lordens Hill, Dinnington, is due to expire on 25th March 2006.

The report submitted set out in detail the current situation with regard to the use of this land, former miners welfare building and changing rooms, together with information from the Green Space audit and a number of management issues in respect of the site.

Reference was made to the current Review of Grass Pitches in the area, as part of the Green Space Audit, the physical condition of the building, and the extent to which the playing facilities are presently being used.

Resolved:- (1) That the lease of the former miners welfare building at Lordens Hill be allowed to lapse to permit the sitting tenant to negotiate a separate lease directly with CISWO.

(2) That a short term (3 year) lease be entered into for continued use of the football changing rooms adjoined to the miners welfare building and associated access for users (at nominal rent).

(3) That a short term (3 year) extension to the existing lease of the recreation ground be entered into (at nominal rent).

(Exempt under Paragraph 3 – information relates to financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council)).

187. GREEN SPACES RESTRUCTURE

Following a Best Value Review of Green Spaces, and subsequent action planning in 2004, consideration was given to a report of the Head of Culture and Leisure, together with a revised staffing structure for the Green Spaces Unit, which has been developed in order to better meet the objectives of the Council and the Service and to deliver savings by increasing outputs within existing resources.

The report contained details of the following:-

- Background
- Review of Green Spaces
- Staff consultations/considerations
- Funding

In addition, details of other considerations given to the new staffing structure for the Service were outlined in terms of the contribution made by Green Spaces to all the Corporate Priorities and Culture and Leisure Service strategic objectives, following which a full discussion took place.

Resolved:- That the report and accompanying proposed new structure for Green Spaces, be approved for implementation.

(Exempt under Paragraph 4 – information relates to consultations or negotiations in connection with labour relations matters).

LEISURE/JOINT SERVICE CENTRE PROJECT BOARD
8th March, 2006

Present:-

Councillor G. Boyes	Cabinet Member, Lifelong Learning, Culture & Leisure (in the Chair)
Peter Ross	Consultant
Kath Atkinson	Primary Care Trust
Derrick Connolly	Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning
Graham Sinclair	Acting Head of Service, Resources & Access, Children & Young People's Services

Apologies for Absence:-

Tony Preston	Project Development Manager, Culture and Leisure
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79/05 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of this Project Board held on 25th October, 2005, were agreed as a correct record.

80/05 MATTERS ARISING

With regard to the Dry Maltby Sports Centre, the meeting was informed that DCMS had again confirmed there are no further PFI credits.

It was suggested this be raised with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and DCMS in a letter shortly to be sent to them informing of the preferred bidder.

81/05 GENERAL PROGRESS REPORT

(Councillor Boyes declared a personal interest in this item in view of her position as a director of Building Learning Communities Limited).

The meeting discussed the content of a recent report to Cabinet which contained information on two submissions received by the Council in response to the invitation to negotiate for the Leisure Services/Maltby Centre PFI project.

These were from DC Leisure and Leisure Connection.

The submissions have now been assessed, leading to the proposed identification of a Preferred Bidder, in terms of both the technical assessment and considerations of cost.

Cabinet had agreed to recommend DC Leisure as the Preferred Bidder, subject to the matters identified in the main report.

The meeting fully debated the following issues:-

- Objectives of the Leisure Services and Maltby Service Centre PFI Project
- Project History
- The Current Position
- Recent Actions
- Technical Evaluation
- Affordability
- Responses to the Affordability Issue

In detail the project looks for the provision of the following:

- St. Ann's (Development Site): swimming pools, leisure water, and sports and fitness facilities
- Maltby (High Street/Braithwell Road i.e. the current RMBC/PCT site): swimming pools and fitness facilities, and the integrated Service Centre for the Council and the PCT
- Wath (Festival Road) adjacent to the Wath Comprehensive School's Sports Hall: swimming pools and fitness facilities
- Aston (Aughton Road) on the Aston Comprehensive school site: swimming pools, sports, fitness and classroom facilities.

The main areas for further negotiation were believed to be:-

- actual design of the Maltby Service Centre
- Term of the Contract
- Legal position re. Business Rates
- Temporary accommodation
- Additional Capital Resources
- PFI Funds
- Contribution from non-Council users of the Maltby Centre
- Output Specification requirements
- Framework for Negotiations

82/05 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Public Consultation

Reference was made to recent complaints from some Maltby residents regarding a lack of public consultation.

In response to this, the meeting considered the content of a draft Press Statement, together with a copy of a positive press article by Dinnington Trader which included comments from a sample of Maltby residents who had visited the recent exhibition of artists' impressions by both bidders, as part of the consultation process, and had completed feedback forms.

(b) Membership Issue

Clarification was sought with regard to the appropriate membership of this Project Board.

Agreed:- That advice be sought from Carol Mills, Executive Director of Corporate Services regarding the inclusion of suggested invitees.

83/05 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of this Project Board was arranged for Wednesday, 26th April, 2006, at the Town Hall, commencing at **12 noon**.

EDUCATION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN
Monday, 27th February, 2006

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair); Councillors Burton and S. Wright.

10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12TH DECEMBER, 2005

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th December, 2005 be agreed as a correct record.

11. GET REAL TEAM - PROGRESS REPORT

Katy Hawkins, Team Manager of the Get Real Team, gave a summary of the educational achievement of Looked After Children for the period December, 2005 to February, 2006.

The report summarised information in respect of the following :-

(a) Staffing

The Teenagers to Work project was now being managed by the NCH Bridges Leaving Care Team as from 24th January, 2006.

The project would be able to reach more young people based within the Leaving Care Team as it was town centre based.

Due to accommodation issues the physical transition of the project was yet to happen but would be resolved in the near future.

Members would be kept informed of reporting protocols which were still being developed.

The full-time Learning Mentor post had been filled. However, a part-time postholder had been successful resulting in a vacancy for a part-time post current funding for which expired in July, 2006.

(b) Partnership with Schools

Schools had been written to offering individual meetings with the Management Team from Get Real to discuss issues pertinent to their individual cohorts of Looked After Children. The latest position was reported.

Looked After Children were on the agenda for the next Primary, Secondary and Special Heads meetings. Discussion would be facilitated with particular reference to attendance and children with part-time provision.

The latest position regarding request for information regarding attendance issues was outlined.

(c) Partnership with Connexions

The second Year II transitions meeting had taken place in January, 2006 with all partners who would be supporting young people through Year II and their transition to adulthood. Partners included the Get Real Team, NCH Bridges

Leaving Care Team, Connexions Lifetime and Connexions Young Peoples Services.

Concern was expressed that, although not finalised, some Connexions time within the NCH Bridges Leaving Care Team would be removed.

It was agreed that Rod Norton and Joyce Thacker be requested to attend the next Cabinet Members' briefing meeting to discuss this matter.

(d) Out of Authority Placements

Looked After Children in out of authority placements continued to be monitored. Reference was made to a small cohort (3) who live in specialist residential units which do not have education provision on site that were posing a challenge. Specific concerns were highlighted regarding one child with complex needs although education provision had recently been implemented.

Members would be kept informed.

(e) Looked After Children on Part Time Tables

It was noted that 23 Looked After Children in Year 11 were on reduced timetables. The individualised timetables ranged in type of provision and numbers of hours offered. Whilst a full-time timetable was not practicable, all had got individual plans and some would be allocated one to one workers ensuring the necessary links were in place.

Specific reference was made to two Year 8's with very specific needs. It was noted that specific actions had been put in place for the two Year 8's and everyone else had individual plans.

Some packages involving one to one support were significantly expensive but finances requested had recently been approved.

(f) LPSA Performance

It was noted that the Council was on target to meet two out of the three agreed LPSA targets.

GCSE targets in the Local Area Agreement had been aligned with Government targets set for CARE leavers with GCSE's. Consultation was taking place around a further target linked to the Attendance of Looked After Children. The existing Government target, reported on a yearly basis, was very restrictive.

(g) Attendance

Following concerns that absences were not being reported, it was noted that the request to all secondary schools to e-mail attendance of all Looked After Children to the Get Real Team on a weekly basis had been met with some resistance. The matter would be on the agenda for the Head Teacher's meetings.

(h) Off School Roll

There were currently no young people who were not on a school roll.

(i) Forthcoming Events

- A multi-agency conference had been arranged for 17th March, 2006 at Silverwood. The calibre of speakers, including HMI demonstrated the importance of Looked After Children in the forthcoming JAR
- The Young Champions of Rotherham event, to celebrate the success of Looked After Children in all areas of their lives, had been arranged for the evening of 6th March, 2006 at the Bailey Suite. Presenters had not yet been finalised but arrangements were in hand
- The Community Care Live event was taking place in London in May, 2006 and ideas for workshops had been requested. Submitted was a workshop idea that was a collaboration between Get Real and the NCH Bridges project showcasing innovative ways of engaging Looked After Children and Care Leavers in order to promote outcomes. A response was awaited.

The report also indicated :-

- the issues of concern regarding finance for the teaching post had been resolved with the contracts of both teachers extended until March and August, 2007. However there were continuing concerns regarding the number of temporary contracts
- despite closer monitoring of attendance figures for Looked After Children and work undertaken from the Get Real Team to improve the figure in relation to the Government target, this was an issue with far wider implications than just the Get Real Team and collaborative working and awareness raising of the roles of others within this needed to be undertaken.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting had been scheduled for Monday, 10th April, 2006 at 9.30 a.m.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure Cabinet Member and Advisors
2.	Date:	4th April 2006
3.	Title:	Permission to retrospectively suspend Standing Order 43
4.	Programme Area	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek member approval to retrospectively suspend Standing Order 43 in respect of 4 purchases, in accordance with a recommendation from Internal Audit following an audit at Kilnhurst Primary School.

6. Recommendation

- i. Members are asked to receive the report**
- ii. To approve the retrospective suspension of Standing Order 43 for the four breaches of the Authority’s Standing Orders identified in the recent audit report.**

7. Proposals and Details

This report seeks the approval of the Cabinet Member and Advisors to retrospectively suspend Standing Order 43 in relation to the four purchases made in breach of the Authority's Standing Orders at Kilnhurst Primary School.

The nature of the breaches can be summarised as follows:

- a) The School advised that they had obtained quotes for resurfacing the play area of the Autistic Resource (£8,503) and the purchase of ICT equipment (£6,315 and £5,989) but were unable to provide these quotes for the auditors at the time of their audit.
- b) Book purchases (£8,000) were made from the same supplier by different members of school staff which resulted in the £3,000 threshold being exceeded. This was only recognised during the audit.

8. Finance

These costs have been met from the schools delegated budget. Without the proof of the quotes it is not possible to confirm that the school secured 'best value' in respect of these particular purchases.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The risk of future breaches is mitigated by agreement of the school to observe the recommendations in the audit report to comply with the Authority's Standing Orders in respect of purchasing arrangements.

10. Policy and Performance Implications

The school failed to observe the Authority's Standing Orders for the four specific purchases above. Audit recommendations accepted by the school should ensure future compliance.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Internal Audit Report – October 2005.

His report has been discussed with the Senior Executive Director, Children and Young People's Services.

Contact name: Pete Hudson, Strategic Finance Officer, Ext. 2550
peter.hudson@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure
2.	Date:	4th April 2006
3.	Title:	Purchase of Sailing Boats at Rother Valley Country Park
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

Following recommendations by the Internal Audit Service, approval is sought to exempt under Standing Order 35 the contract for the purchase of 3 Laser Pico's and 3 Laser Vago's for Rother Valley Country Park Water Sports Centre at a cost of £15,259.29.

6. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member receives this report and exempts under Standing Order 35, the contract for the purchase of six sailing boats from Performance Sailcraft Europe Limited.

7. Proposals and Details

As part of the ongoing replacement of equipment at Rother Valley Watersports Centre, there is a need to purchase six 'Laser' sailing boats. These will be used for general hire and instruction. 'Laser' boats are required because they conform to an Olympic standard, as specified for training purposes. Performance Sailcraft Limited are the sole manufacturers and suppliers of these boats, and it is not therefore possible to gain two written quotations as required by normal standing orders.

8. Finance

The total purchase price of the boats is £15,259.29, for which provision is made within the existing park budget.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

None

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The course of action pursued will ensure compliance with Council Standing Orders, and will help to demonstrate that best value for money has been sought.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

This matter and the proposed course of action has been discussed and agreed with the Internal Audit Service.

The Head of Legal Services supports the request to exempt the contract for the purchase of six sailing boats from Standing Order 43 (contracts valued at less than £50,000) for the reason outlined in the report.

Contact Name : *Ian Dixon, Manager, Rother Valley Country Park*
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