



Cabinet Member (Education)

Time and Date

2.00 pm on Tuesday, 30th September, 2014

Place

Committee Room 2 - Council House

Public Business

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)
 - (a) To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2014
 - (b) Matters arising
4. **Cessation of Dol y Moch Remissions Budget Contributions from the Council** (Pages 7 - 12)

Report of the Executive Director, People
5. **Appointment of Authority Governors** (Pages 13 - 14)

Report of the Executive Director, People
6. **Outstanding Issues** (Pages 15 - 18)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources
7. **Any Other Items of Public Business**

Any other items of public business which the Cabinet Member decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

Private Business

Nil

Chris West, Executive Director, Resources, Council House Coventry

Monday, 22 September 2014

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is

Michelle Salmon, Governance Services Tel: 024 7683 3065 E-mail:
michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk

Membership:

Councillors D Kershaw (Cabinet Member) and D Chater (Deputy Cabinet Member)

By invitation: Councillor J Blundell (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Please note: a hearing loop is available in the committee rooms

If you require a British Sign Language interpreter for this meeting
OR if you would like this information in another format or
language please contact us.

Michelle Salmon

**Governance Services Tel: 024 7683 3065 E-mail:
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Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member (Education) held at 2.30 pm on
Wednesday, 16 July 2014

Present:

Members: Councillor D Kershaw (Cabinet Member)
 Councillor J Lepoidevin (Substitute Shadow Cabinet Member)
 Councillor D Chater (Deputy Cabinet Member)

Other Members Present: Councillor J Innes

Employees:

D Wallis, People Directorate
U Patel, Resources Directorate

Apologies: Councillor Blundell (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Public Business

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2014 were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Appointment to the Coventry Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Education and Inclusion Service which sought approval to the appointment of a representative of the Coventry Quakers (group 2) to the Coventry Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

SACRE was established under the Education Reform Act 1988 and comprises four Groups; a Church of England Group (Group 1); a group representing other Christian denominations and other Faiths which reflect the principal religious traditions in the area (Group 2); a group representing teachers (Group 3) and a group representing the City Council (Group 4).

The City Council is responsible for appointing members to the 4 statutory Groups which comprise SACRE. The current membership was attached at appendix 1 of the report.

The purpose of SACRE is to advise the Local Authority on matters concerning religious education in community schools and the religious education provision to be made in accordance with an Agreed Syllabus. These matters may include methods of teaching, training for teachers, and choice of materials and resources.

The membership of Group 2 of SACRE was currently under represented. Eleanor Nesbitt of Coventry Quakers has been nominated by the Coventry Quaker Meeting and the Clerk to the Quaker Meeting is fully supportive of the recommendation.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member (Education) approves the appointment of Eleanor Nesbitt to Group 2 of the Coventry Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education for a period of four years as the representative of Coventry Quakers.

4. Appointment of Authority Governors

RESOLVED that, having met the Local Authority criteria for the appointment of Local Authority school governors, Cabinet Member approves the appointment and re-appointment of the persons listed below for the schools and terms of office indicated:-

Authority Governor: New Appointments

Name	School	Term of Office
Mr Paul Carpenter	Good Shepherd Catholic Primary	15 July 2018
Councillor P Townshend	St Christopher Primary	15 July 2018

Authority Governor: Re-Appointments

Name	School	Term of Office
Councillor A Khan	Broad Heath Primary	30 September 2018
Mrs T Roxburgh	Broad Heath Primary	30 September 2018
Mrs C Davies	Cannon Park Primary	22 July 2018
Mr T Marchi	Ernesford Grange Primary	4 August 2018
Councillor G Crookes	Finham Primary School	31 August 2018
Mrs M Whalley	Foxford School	31 August 2018
Councillor J Blundell	Grange Farm Primary	23 July 2018
Mrs S Rixon	Grange Farm Primary	23 July 2018
Councillor L Bigham	Longford Park Primary	31 August 2018
Councillor S Walsh	Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary	30 June 2018

Councillor F Abbot	Ravensdale Primary	30 September 2018
Councillor M Hammon	Stoke Park School	31 August 2018
Mr H Hall	Stoke Park School	31 August 2018
Mr R Manning	Woodfield School	21 June 2018

5. **Outstanding Issues**

The Cabinet Member noted a report of the Executive Director, Resources that identified those issues on which further reports had been requested and were outstanding, so that progress could be monitored.

6. **Any Other Items of Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 3.00 pm)

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Cabinet Member (Education)

30 September 2014

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Education) - Cllr Kershaw

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director – People

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Cessation of Dol y Moch Remissions Budget Contributions from the Council

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The 1996 Education Act sets out the law on charging for school activities. This applies to schools maintained by local authorities in England and academies (including free schools, studio schools and UTCs). All schools are required to have charging and remissions policies, which comply with the guidance and are approved by Governors.

In relation to residential trips, parents who are in receipt of certain benefits (as set out in the DFE Guidance: Charging for School Activities, November 2013) are exempt from paying the board and lodging costs.

For many years the Council has subsidised schools to enable more deprived or vulnerable pupils to participate in activities at the Dol y Moch residential centre through the remissions budget. The City Council does not fund any other remissions for other activities. With the advent of pupil premium, schools now have access to funding to support vulnerable pupils therefore it is proposed to cease this funding with effect from April 2015.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is asked to

- (1) Agree the cessation of the Dol y Moch remissions funding from April 2015

List of Appendices included:

None

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Cessation of Dol y Moch Remissions Subsidy from the City Council

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The City Council has a full cost recovery policy for services provided to schools, unless there is a previously agreed subsidy. The City Council has provided a small subsidy to Dol y Moch, to reflect the fact that pupils from lower income families are exempt from board and lodging fees. This enables reduced charges to be made to schools to ensure more deprived pupils can participate in residential activities at the centre. The total budget for this is £44k per year.
- 1.2 The money is used to provide each school with a number of free places (board and lodgings only) allocated on the basis of pupils entitled to free school meals. The school then decides how to allocate these places and whether parents are asked for a contribution (voluntary in the case of lower income families). The Local Authority does not provide funding to support residential trips to other activity centres. Schools opting to use other provision fund this from their own resources.
- 1.3 Since these provisions were put in place there has been a significant level of change in schools funding arrangements. Schools which have converted to become academies are no longer in receipt of their part of this subsidy.
- 1.4 All schools now receive a pupil premium for specified vulnerable pupils. The pupil premium is additional funding given to publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers. Free school meal eligibility is used to identify these pupils. This premium is £1,300 per primary pupil and £935 per secondary pupil which represents a significant increase on 2011/12 levels as detailed in section 5.1 below. There are further payments for looked after or adopted children. This premium can be used to provide access to educational activities and support for individuals, so could be used to replace the part of the subsidy lost from the Council.
- 1.5 The money for the subsidy is currently funded by the Education Services Grant (ESG). This grant has seen substantial reductions over recent years.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 Two options were considered for this subsidy:
 - 2.1.1 To continue with it with no change at an on-going cost of £44k per year.
 - 2.1.2 To cease the subsidy and allow schools to prioritise their own resources to support attendance at educational residential activities as they wish.
- 2.2 To continue with the current subsidy would be anomalous in view of recent changes to pupil funding through the pupil premium. Schools funding continues to be one of the most protected areas in the public sector system.
- 2.3 Local Authority budgets for core education functions have reduced significantly due to the academisation of schools. In 2013/14 this equates to a reduction of £1.9M in Local Authority spending. This reduction is being dealt with as part of the Children's Statutory Functions FSR, and this proposal is put forward as a contribution to dealing with this reduction.

- 2.4 Furthermore, as Dol y Moch is operating in a competitive market and is operating financially independently of the Council, it is no longer appropriate for the Council to provide a subsidy to allow one provider in this market to offer rebates. This proposal enables Dol y Moch to compete on the same basis as all other providers.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 There has been no consultation with parents or pupils as any funding gap can be made up by the use of the Pupil Premium.
- 3.2 A paper about this proposal was taken to the Outdoor Education Steering group in July 2014. This includes representative Head Teachers. It was agreed that the only option was to cease the remissions budget contribution as Dol y Moch needs to be financially independent of the Council and the Council supporting one provider is no longer appropriate or equitable.
- 3.3 There has been no wider consultation with schools.
- 3.4 The impact on this for Dol y Moch is that they would no longer be able to provide free places (board and lodgings) to schools. It is not expected that this will have an impact on their buyback levels.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 It is proposed that this decision will be implemented from April 2015.

5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.1 Financial implications

The Outdoor Education Service has a core funded remissions budget of £44k. The £44k budget represents the historic subsidy provided to Doly Moch to subsidise board and lodging costs for low income families.

The actual cost of these remission places is forecast to be £78k in 2014/15 and has been at this level for some years. The shortfall between cost and funding is managed each year within the overall Doly Moch bottom line.

In line with the Scrutiny Board 1 report of 29 November 2011, the Outdoor Education service operates on a full cost recovery basis. This ensures that excluding the remissions budget the service recovers its full cost and is not subsidised by the Local Authority.

If the remissions subsidy ceases and the service charge schools the full cost of these places this will create an addition £78k of income based on 14/15 levels, however the service will have reduced resource of £44k resulting in additional income to service of £34k. The service will have a choice as to whether they wish to review their charging policy or look to invest this additional income into service delivery.

Since 2011/12 Schools have received Pupil Premium funding specifically for disadvantaged pupils which is allocated to schools based on free school meal numbers. Since 2011/12 this allocation has almost tripled in the Primary sector and doubled in the Secondary sector.

5.2 Legal implications

S449-462 sets out the circumstances for charging for school activities in maintained schools (which by virtue of their funding agreement includes academies/free schools studio schools and UTC's). Schools are required to have and keep under review, a charging and remissions policy. In the absence of such a policy no charges are permissible. Schools are permitted to charge for "optional extras" and board and lodging, eligibility for remission of the charges for board and lodging is the same as eligibility for free school meals and is the responsibility of governing bodies.

6. Other implications

None

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

The savings generated by the cessation of this funding will be used to cover the LA funding reduction as a result of schools becoming academies.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

The risk of this having a negative impact on the opportunities of individual pupils is slight given the small amount of per pupil funding this subsidy represents.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4 Equalities / EIA

The funding previously provided by the Council was to support vulnerable groups. This funding is being replaced by funding which schools can access through Pupil Premium and therefore any negative impact of this decision is mitigated.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author:

Name and job title: Isabel Merrifield, Assistant Director Safeguarding, Performance and Quality

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Officer	Resources	10 Sept 14	11 Sept 2014
Richard Adams	Lead Accountant	Resources	10 Sept 14	12 Sept 2014
Sara Roach	Deputy Director	People	10 Sept 14	12 Sept 2014
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Rachael Sugars	Finance Manager	Resources	2 Sept 14	12 Sept 2014
Legal: Elaine Atkins	Solicitor	Resources	2 Sept 14	12 Sept 2014
Director: Brian Walsh	Executive Director	People	15 Sept 14	17 Sept 2014
Members: Councillor Kershaw		Elected Member	15 Sept 14	15 Sept 2014

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Coventry City Council

Document

Cabinet Member (Education)

30 September 2014

Authority Governor: New Appointments

Name	School	Term of Office
Mr William Holdforth	Allesley Hall Primary	29 September 2018
Cllr Jayne Innis	Hillfields Nursery	29 September 2018
Mrs Jackie Brook	Leigh CE Primary	29 September 2018
Mr Hitesh Mehta	St Thomas More Catholic Primary	29 September 2018
Mrs Karen Rossiter	St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary	29 September 2018

All the above meet the criteria for appointment as LA Governors set out below.

- Have a commitment to the provision of high quality education and the pursuit of excellence for all children
- Are supportive of the LA's policies, its aspirations for Coventry's children and the partnership between a publicly accountable LA and its schools
- Are able to work as a member of a team.
- Are conscientious and committed to attending meetings regularly.
- Have good communication skills both written and oral.
- Have an interest in and a desire to contribute to improving education outcomes in Coventry.
- Have a willingness to be challenging, supportive and a critical friend to the school.
- Are supportive of public services and of the role of the City Council in the provision of Education.

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30th September 2014

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Education) – Councillor D Kershaw

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director, Resources

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title:

Outstanding Issues Report

Is this a key decision? No

Executive Summary:

In May 2004 the City Council adopted an Outstanding Minutes System, linked to the Forward Plan, to ensure that follow up reports can be monitored and reported to Members. The attached appendix sets out a table detailing the issues on which further reports have been requested by the Cabinet Member (Education) so he is aware of them and can monitor progress.

Recommendations:

Cabinet Member (Education) is requested to consider the list of outstanding issues and to ask the Member of the Management Board or appropriate officer to explain the current position on those which should have been discharged at this meeting or an earlier meeting.

List of Appendices included:

Table of Outstanding Issues.

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it, or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report author(s):

Name and job title:

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Resources Directorate

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Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Names of approvers: (officers and Members)				

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APPENDIX

	Subject	Date for Consideration	Directorate/ Responsible Officer	Proposed Date/Amendment to Date for Consideration	Reason for Request to Delay Submission of Report
1	Adult Education Service Fees Strategy for Academic Year 2014/2015 - report on the impact of the Strategy be submitted to the Cabinet Member (minute 48/14 refers)	March 2015	Simon Brake, Assistant Director, Policy, Performance, Health, Libraries & Adult Education, People Directorate		

* Identifies items where a report is on the agenda for the meeting.

