

CABINET MEMBER (EDUCATION)

10th April 2013

Cabinet Member

Present: Councillor Kershaw

Employees Present: E. Atkins (Finance and Legal Services Directorate)
S. Brake (Community Services Directorate)
H. Blevin (Community Services Directorate)
D. Haley (Children, Learning & Young People Directorate)
R. Lickfold (Children, Learning and Young People Directorate)
M. Salmon (Customer & Workforce Services Directorate)
T. Zhang (Children, Learning & Young People Directorate)

Apologies: Councillor Williams

Public Business

48. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

49. Minutes

(a) The minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record.

(b) The minutes of the Joint Meeting of Cabinet Member (City Development) and Cabinet Member (Education) held on 26th March 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record.

(c) There were no matters arising.

50. Determination of School Terms and Holidays 2014-2015

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People that detailed the outcome of the public consultation for the Schools Terms and holidays dates for 2014/2015 and sought approval of the School Terms and Holidays Calendar for 2014/2015. The consultation document and examples of comments of respondents to the consultation were attached as appendices to the report.

Under Section 32 of the Education Act 2002 in the case of a community, voluntary controlled or community special school or a maintained nursery school the Local Authority was required to determine the dates when the school terms and holidays were to begin and end, and the governing body was required to determine the times of the school sessions.

Foundation, Voluntary Aided, Foundation Special Schools and Academies Governing Bodies had the power to determine school terms and holidays dates.

The current Coventry Local Authority principles and protocols were taken into account when setting the 4 options for consideration:

- a school year was 195 days, with 190 pupil days and 5 teacher days;
- 1 teacher day was determined by the Local Authority and 4 days by individual schools;
- statutory holidays were observed;
- schools preferred, especially secondary schools, full weeks of teaching wherever possible;
- schools preferred a full week break at half term and two full weeks at Easter and Christmas;
- half term holidays were set at the same time as those of neighbouring Authorities if possible.

The half term holidays in 2014/2015 consultation options had been set to the same dates as those of Warwickshire and the neighbouring West Midlands authorities. Leicestershire half term holidays were the same dates for the spring and summer terms.

Birmingham and Warwickshire would be recommending Saturday 28 March 2015 as their preferred option for the start date of the school Easter holiday. Solihull, Herefordshire and Leicestershire had set this date. Easter Sunday was 05 April 2015, the middle weekend of the two weeks beginning on the 28 March. Options 1 and 2 in the Coventry public consultation offered the same start date for the school Easter holiday.

There were 160 valid replies to the public consultation, which took place from 11 February 2013 to 11 March 2013. The most popular overall of the 4 options available was Option 3 with Friday 3 April 2015 as the start date of the school Easter holiday.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the report and matters raised at the meeting, the Cabinet Member (Education):

- (1) Considered the outcome of the public consultation on School Terms and Holidays and agreed a calendar of School Terms and Holidays for 2014/2015.**
- (2) Adopts Option 3 as the School Terms and Holidays programme 2014/2015 for Community, Voluntary Controlled and Community Special Schools, and maintained Nursery Schools.**
- (3) Invites the Catholic and Church of England Diocesan Authorities and the Governors of Trust Schools and Academies to recommend the same calendar for their schools.**

51. Impact of 2013-2014 School Funding Reform

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People that detailed the school level budget impact of the 2013/2014 School Funding Reform on maintained schools and the different approach for pupils with high needs and potential impact on schools and local authority high needs place planning. An appendix to the report provided an analysis of the School Funding Changes between 2012/2013 and 2013/2014.

The School Funding Reform directed local authorities to implement significant changes in local school funding arrangements for the 2013/2014 financial year. Coventry Schools Forum had set up 2 working groups to facilitate the School Funding Reform for 2013/2014 and fair funding formula change proposals were developed and consulted on with all stakeholders through the Fair Funding Consultation. The outcome of the consultation was approved by Cabinet in October 2012 (their minute 46/12 referred).

The deployment of the School Budget was approved by the Schools Forum in January 2013, and maintained mainstream schools had now received their budget shares for 2013/2014. The School Funding Reform also directed local authorities to implement the Place-plus funding methodology for special schools. One of the key features of this funding approach was that an element of the funding was pupil led therefore this meant that special school budgets would not be finalised until the end of the financial year. Indicative budgets had been issued to special schools based on best estimates.

The Cabinet Member expressed his thanks for the work that had been undertaken by Local Authority Finance Officers with schools to support them in managing the funding changes and in setting a balanced budget and asked that his thanks be passed onto the officers concerned.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the report and matters raised at the meeting, the Cabinet Member (Education):

- (1) Endorses the school level budget impact of the 2013/14 School Funding Reform on maintained schools.**
- (2) Notes the different funding approach for pupils with high needs and potential impact on schools and local authority high needs place planning.**

52. 24+ Advanced Learning Loans Bursary Fund

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People that sought approval of the proposed policy, attached as an appendix to the report, for the implementation of the 24+ Adult Learning Loans Bursary Fund for use by the Adult Education Service and provided details of the implementation of the fund in line with Skills Funding Agency guidelines.

The Government, via the Skills Funding Agency, would be introducing a new model of funding for courses for adults who were aged 24+, and where the course was at Level 3 or above for courses commencing September 2013. The Scheme involved the use of loans administered by the Student Loans Company in a similar style to the system which already existed for Higher Education loans. To support this new funding model a new bursary fund has been made available for vulnerable adults in this age and qualification category. The Adult Education Service already provided course up to and including Level 3, therefore required a policy to deal with this change. The Level 3 courses currently offered were all in vocational areas. Prior to this change the Adult Education Service (AES) was able to use the Discretionary Learner Support Fund to support these learners.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the report and matters raised at the meeting, the Cabinet Member (Education) approves the proposed policy for the implementation of the 24+ Adult Learning Loans Bursary Fund for use by the Adult Education Service.

53. 24+ Advanced Learning Loans Fee Structure for Level 3 Courses 2013/2014

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People that sought approval of the proposed fee policy, a summary of which was attached as an appendix to the report, for the 24+ Adult Learning Loans for Level 3 courses within the Adult Education Service for the academic year 2013/2014, in line with Skills Funding Agency guidelines.

The Government via the Skills Funding Agency would be introducing a new model of funding for courses for adults who were aged 24+, and where the course was at Level 3 or above for courses commencing September 2013. The scheme involved the use of loans administered by the Student Loans Company in a similar style to the system which already existed for Higher Education loans. The Adult Education Service already provided courses up to and including Level 3, therefore required a policy to deal with this change. The Level 3 courses offered were all in vocational areas and in 2012/2013 had 77 learners enrolled. Previously the Adult Education Service had set fee rates in line with all its other courses but as it would no longer receive income in the same manner from the Skills Funding Agency for Level 3 courses, the fee structure needed to be modified.

The Cabinet Member, acknowledged that participation in courses that required funding by individuals themselves, was less likely to be pursued during these difficult economic times. Education and Learning officers and Adult Education Service officers would work together to encourage funding support from the school for teaching assistants wishing to pursue additional skills development.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the report and matters raised at the meeting, the Cabinet Member (Education) approves the proposed fee policy for 24+ Adult Learning Loans Level 3 courses within the Adult Education Service.

54. Closure of Chace Extended Learning Centre (Pupil Referral Unit)

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People that sought approval to proceed to statutory consultation and the timetable for consultation, for the closure of Chace Extended Learning Centre.

Chace Extended Learning Centre was a Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Unit providing education for up to 40 Key Stage 4 students who had been permanently excluded from school or were at risk of permanent exclusion.

The Centre was inspected by Ofsted in May 2012 and found to require Special Measures. The Council had concerns regarding the effectiveness of the provision prior to the inspection and had already established a planning and monitoring group to provide enhanced support and challenge to the Centre's leadership. Since then that group had become the Chace Sub-Committee of the Extended Learning Centre Management Committee. Following receipt of the Ofsted inspection report a Raising Achievement Plan was put in place, setting out the measures that would be taken to bring about the required rapid improvement. This was approved by Ofsted in September 2012.

In October 2012 a representative of the Department for Education met with officers and the Headteacher of Chace and made clear the Department's expectation that, given the inspection outcome, Chace should become a sponsored Academy.

An alternative option was identified to close the Centre on 31st August 2013 and to devolve the responsibility and resource for this Key Stage 4 alternative provision to the 2 school/Academy managed Area Behaviour Partnerships. The Area Behaviour Partnerships represented all secondary schools/academies in the City and made provision for all Coventry's young people 11-19. This alternative option was the preference of the secondary Headteachers, the Management Committee (effectively the Governing Body) and the City Council. The Management Committee approved a resolution to close the Chace on 8th November 2012. The Department of Further Education had confirmed that it would not oppose this.

RESOLVED that after due consideration of the report and matters raised at the meeting, the Cabinet Member (Education) approves:

- (1) The plan to proceed to statutory consultation on the closure of Chace Extended Learning Centre, as part of the strategy to devolve responsibility and resource for Key Stage 4 alternative provision to the Area Behaviour Partnerships.**
- (2) The proposed timetable for consultation, including consultation with staff and trade unions.**

55. Appointment of Authority Governors

RESOLVED that, having met the Local Authority criteria for the appointment of Local Authority school governors, Cabinet Member (Education) 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
Mrs Margaret Halpin	Christ the King Catholic Primary	9 April 2017
Mr Darren Raynor	Potters Green Primary	9 April 2017

Additional Authority Governor:

Name	School	Term of Office
Mrs Charlotte Reed	Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary	9 April 2017

(Note: The Cabinet Member (Education) and the Assistant Director (Education and Learning) would pursue nominations for the remaining vacancies.)

56. **Outstanding Issues**

The Cabinet Member noted a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services on the outstanding issues relevant to his portfolio.

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

There were no other items of public business.

Private Business

Nil

(Meeting closed at 12.40 p.m.)