

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE**HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 7.32 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY**

Present: Councillors Watling (Chairman), Miles (Vice-Chairman), Aldis, C Callender, Chapman, V E Guglielmi, Richardson and Tracey

Also Present: Councillors Bucke and McWilliams

In Attendance: Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney), Executive Projects Officer (Keri Lawrence) and Senior Democratic Services Officer (Ian Ford)

Also In Attendance: Graham Lancaster (Standards & Excellence Commissioner and OfSTED Inspector)

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

There were none.

15. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2014

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee, held on 26 November 2014, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

17. DISCUSSION – TENDRING EDUCATION GROUP'S EMERGING STRATEGY TO RAISE PUPIL ATTAINMENT LEVELS

Graham Lancaster, Standards & Excellence Commissioner and OfSTED Inspector, attended the meeting and gave a presentation to the Committee on OfSTED inspections and the Tendring Education Improvement Group's (TEIG) emerging strategy to raise pupil attainment levels. The presentation was submitted under the following main headings:

- (1) OFSTED – The Broad Picture;
- (2) OFSTED – Keys to Success in relation to Inspections;
- (3) OFSTED – In Essex and Tendring;
- (4) OFSTED – In Tendring: Schools on track to move to Good;
- (5) Essex LA Strategy for School Improvement in Tendring and Beyond; and
- (6) The Tendring Education Improvement Group.

Mr Lancaster then answered Members' questions on a range of subjects including:

- (a) Pressures on Head Teachers and Teachers and how they could be alleviated;
- (b) The 'peripheral' location of Tendring and its negative impact on the recruitment and retention of Teachers;
- (c) The qualitative merits of schools sharing Head Teachers;
- (d) The difficulties within the system of reviewing and, if necessary, removing under-performing Head Teachers;
- (e) The merits and demerits of using trainee teachers;

- (f) The appropriateness of OfSTED inspectors in their questioning of pupils in the light of recent media reports;
- (g) The potential draw-backs of numerous overlapping educational bodies; and
- (h) The relationships between Academy status and non-academy status schools and the monitoring of Academy status schools.

The Chairman thanked Mr Lancaster for his informative presentation and invited him to return in the future and give an update to the Committee on developments.

18. REVIEW OF THE YEAR AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2015/2016

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services), which provided the Committee with a review of the work it had carried out in the current municipal year and sought Members' approval to a draft Work Programme for the coming 2015/2016 Municipal Year.

Members had before them a revised Work Programme (Appendix B) which had been omitted from the published report in error.

Following discussion by the Committee it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The report on the review of the year 2014 to 2015 be noted;
- (b) The draft 2015/16 Work Programme be approved and submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Council for approval, subject to the inclusion of the additional items set out in (c) below; and
- (c) The following items be added to the 2015/16 Work Programme:
 - (i) Review of School Attainment figures;
 - (ii) Review of Secondary Schools (including Tendring Enterprise Studio School) League Tables;
 - (iii) Review of Colleges.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.37 p.m.

Chairman