
MINUTES OF THE FINAL MEETING OF THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, HELD ON 18 APRIL 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY

Present: Councillors Fairley (Chairman), Raby (Vice-Chairman), Bucke and Cossens

Also Present: Councillor McWilliams (Well-being and Partnerships Portfolio Holder)

In Attendance: Corporate Director (Corporate Services) (Martyn Knappett), Human Resources and Business Manager (Anastasia Simpson), Management and Members' Support Manager (Karen Neath), Senior Democratic Services Officer (Ian Ford) and Democratic Services Officer (Katie Sullivan)

Also In Attendance: Dr Sarah Alix (Anglia Ruskin University), Graham Lancaster (ECC's Lead Commissioner for Primary Schools (North East)) (item 33 only) and Jeff Brindle (Head Teacher – Clacton County High School) (except item 34)

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Calver and Poonian.

29. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held on 1 February 2016, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members at this time.

31. TEACH FIRST – TEACHER RECRUITMENT WITHIN TENDRING

The Chairman informed the Committee that, due to unforeseen circumstances, no one from Teach First had been able to attend the meeting. However, she informed Members that a daytime meeting with Teach First would be arranged to which local Head Teachers and all Members of the Council would be invited to attend.

The Committee noted the foregoing.

32. JOINT WORKING WITH ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY

Dr Sarah Alix attended the meeting and gave a presentation to the Committee on joint working with Anglia Ruskin University. Dr Alix set out and explained ideas for joint working which included:

- (1) University Taster Days;
- (2) Support sessions for Extended Project Qualification (EPQ);
- (3) Student Partnership; and
- (4) 'Looked After Children' Summer School.

All present took part in the discussion which included matters such as:

- (i) an explanation of the EPQ;
- (ii) the need to focus on years 5 and 6 and influence their 'Direction of Travel'; and
- (iii) the need to get parents involved – make them aware of available funding options for University and allay concerns and avoid them 'holding back' their offspring.

There was a consensus that there was a need to focus on Years 5 and 6 and use opportunities such as Parent/Teacher evenings to engage with the parents.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Dr Alix for her attendance and looked forward to these ideas being taken forward in the future.

33. WHITE PAPER 2016 – “EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE EVERYWHERE”

Graham Lancaster, ECC's Lead Commissioner for Primary Schools (North East) attended the meeting and gave a presentation to the Committee on the White Paper 2016 "Educational Excellence Everywhere". His presentation covered the following matters and persons present asked questions throughout:

- (a) the Government's vision for Education;
- (b) recent published reforms;
- (c) the White Paper: Seven key elements;
- (d) Academies;
- (e) Academies in Tendring;
- (f) the three remaining duties of the Local Authority;
- (g) the implications for Essex County Council;
- (h) the current position in Essex; and the
- (i) additional content of the White Paper.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Mr Lancaster for his very informative presentation.

34. REVIEW OF THE YEAR AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016/17

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. The report also sought Members' approval to a draft Work Programme for inclusion within the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee's work programme for the coming 2016/2017 municipal year for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held on 26 April 2016.

Members were aware that Council, at its meeting held on 5 April 2016, had decided to disband the Education and Skills Committee and transfer its terms of reference to the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee. That decision would come into effect at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 26 April 2016.

The Council's Human Resources and Business Manager explained that Appendix A to the report was a summary of what had been discussed and agreed by the Committee in the municipal year thus far. She stated that Appendix B was a suggested work programme for the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee and she was happy for the Committee to add any items it felt were required.

Following discussion by the Committee it was moved by Councillor Raby, seconded by Councillor Bucke and **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the report on the review of the year 2015 to 2016, as detailed in Appendix A to item A.1 of the report of the Corporate Director (Corporate Services), be noted; and

- (b) the draft 2016/17 Work Programme (to be taken on by the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee in due course), as set out in Appendix B to the aforementioned report, be agreed and submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Council for approval.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.14 p.m.

Chairman