



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

APPENDIX B

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: MONDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2011 at 5.30 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Corrall – Chair
Councillor Senior – Vice-Chair

Councillor Cleaver
Councillor Mugglestone
Councillor Potter

Co-opted Members

Mr Mohammed
Alauddin Al-Azad - Parent Governor (Primary /Special Needs)

Also In Attendance

Councillor Dempster - Cabinet Lead Member for Children and
Schools

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78. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS AS URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised Members that, due to printing and distribution problems, the agenda for this meeting had not been published within the right time frame to enable the meeting to be formally constituted. He therefore had agreed that all of the items on the agenda should be taken as urgent items and asked the Committee to endorse this decision.

RESOLVED:

that all of the items on the agenda for this meeting be taken as urgent items, so that:-

- the general business of the Committee is not delayed;
- where appropriate, the Committee's views can be passed to Cabinet before it considers the relevant items; and

- the review of school meals can be completed in time for a final report to be made before the end of the municipal year.

79. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr E Hayes (Roman Catholic Diocese) and Mary Lawson (Church of England Diocese).

80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they had in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Councillor Potter declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the general business of the meeting, as she had a child in full time education in the City.

Councillor Senior declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the general business of the meeting, as her husband was an employee of the City Council, although not in Children's Services or City Catering.

85. DEVELOPING THE TRADED SERVICES OFFER TO SCHOOLS

The Strategic Director, Children submitted a report setting out a proposed way forward for developing services traded with schools, in the light of the recent Government White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" and the Local Government finance settlement.

In presenting the report, the Divisional Director, Planning and Commissioning advised the Committee that:-

- All services that potentially could be traded had been rigorously reviewed over the last few months and several additional ones that could be traded had been identified. These now needed to be market-tested with schools;
- Charges for services currently traded needed to be reviewed, as the full cost of traded services was not always charged and recovered. If it was found that the cost of a traded service could not be covered, consideration needed to be given to terminating that service and finding alternative provision;
- There was likely to be a new tariff of charges for traded services introduced with effect from 1 April 2011 and 1 September 2011, which it was hoped could realise an additional £500,000 - £700,000 per annum; and
- Schools were aware of these proposals and had already received additional delegated funds in previous years to allow them to purchase services.

The following points were noted during discussion on this item:-

- The possibility of deriving income from advice given by the Council on asset management was being investigated;
- Other councils already offered more extensive traded services, which could be offered to City schools. Similarly, this Council could offer its services to schools in other areas. However, this authority's priorities would remain Leicester City schools and pupils;
- Educational Psychology was an important service. Its ability to provide support to children from a very early age could reduce the difficulties that could be experienced by children in later life. This service was very highly valued by schools and an objective was to develop the services offered in ways that were of benefit to schools;
- Health and Safety services currently supported all schools, children's centres and other such settings. All purchasers of the service received a full quality audit and action plan each year as a minimum service. Additional services could be provided as needed, (for example, fire risk assessments); and
- Only a small number of services currently were bought by independent schools in the private sector, (for example, radiation protection advice).

RESOLVED:

- 1) that the Strategic Director, Children be requested to present a report to a future meeting of this Committee on the services offered by the Educational Psychology service, this report to include work undertaken to ensure that parents and carers are aware of Educational Psychology services that are available;
- 2) that the proposed way forward for developing the traded services offer to schools be noted and the recommendations to Cabinet endorsed; and
- 3) that, in considering the proposed way forward for developing the traded services offer to schools, the Cabinet be requested to take account of the comments recorded above.