



Leicester
City Council

MINUTES EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2002 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Johnson - Chair
Councillor Hunter - Labour Spokesperson
Councillor Blackmore – Liberal Democrat Spokesperson

Councillor Bhatti	Councillor Henry
Councillor Chohan	Councillor Nurse
Councillor Clair	Councillor Sood
Councillor Gajjar	Councillor Soulsby
Councillor Thompson	

Co-opted Members (Voting)

Ms Veronica Bolsover - Parent Governor (Secondary School)

Co-opted Members (Non-Voting)

Mr Peter Flack - Secondary Sector
Professor Fogelman - De Montfort University/University of
Leicester
Mr Geoff Rawnsley - City of Leicester Governors Association

In Attendance

Councillor Roberts – Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning

* * * * *

66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

The meeting noted the general interests of members as governors as follows:

School / College	Category	of
------------------	----------	----

		Governorship
Cllr Blackmore	Ellesmere College	LEA
	Adult Education College	LEA
Cllr Hunter	Medway Community Primary	LEA
	Adult Education College	
Cllr Chohan	Abbey Primary	LEA
Cllr Gajjar	Marriott Primary	LEA
	Rushey Mead Secondary	LEA
Cllr Sood	Spinney Hill Primary	LEA
Cllr Henry	Glebelands Primary	LEA
Cllr Thompson	Sandfield Close Primary	LEA
	Northfield House Primary	LEA
Mrs V Bolsover	Alderman Richard Hallham Primary	Parent
	Beaumont Leys.	Parent

Councillor Sood declared a personal non- prejudicial interest with regard to her son who was a teacher at Babington Community College and as a director of Leicester Council of Faiths in relation to appendix B, Revenue Budget Monitoring 2001/2002.

Geoff Rawnsley declared a personal non- prejudicial interest as a Chair of Governors at Crown Hill Community College and Chair of City of Leicester Governors Association.

74. REPORT ON RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT 'MEETING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS - LEICESTER CITY LEA'S INCLUSION STRATEGY'

The Director of Education submitted a report which gave details of the responses to the consultation and summarised the main points. It was stated that the issues raised included:

- parents' concerns about a possible lack of support available in mainstream schools and the ability of mainstream schools to cope;
- schools' concerns that mainstream schools may not recognise children's complex needs or have insufficient expertise and training;
- some agencies' concerns that parents and staff should actively be involved and that needs should be met appropriately. Other agencies were more supportive of the concept of inclusion.

The Department had established a Project Board to oversee future developments and to scrutinise proposals before recommending them for Member approval.

It was stated that the Teachers Associations had submitted a detailed response which had approved of Inclusion as a correct policy. With appropriate levels of funding, pilot projects could be set up. Professional Associations also felt strongly that the membership of the Project Board should be widened to be more representative of Primary schools and of Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs). Views were expressed that because of misrepresentation in the local media, the consultation had proved ineffective

and it was now important for the Council to develop detailed proposals upon which parents could again be consulted.

RESOLVED:

- 1 That Cabinet be requested to consider recommending the widening of the membership of the Project Board and to develop detailed proposals for taking Inclusion forward as a matter of priority.
- 2 That further progress reports be brought back to this Scrutiny Committee.