

AGENDA

Meeting: Children's Services Select Committee
Place: Council Chamber, Bradley Road, Trowbridge
Date: Friday 22 July 2011
Time: 10.30 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Sharon Smith, of Democratic and Members' Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line (01225) 718378 or email sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225) 713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Membership:

Cllr Christine Crisp	Cllr Russell Hawker
Cllr Paul Darby	Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Andrew Davis	Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Peter Davis	Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Mary Douglas	Cllr Helen Osborn
Cllr Peter Fuller	Cllr Pip Ridout
Cllr Mark Griffiths	Cllr Carole Soden (Chairman)

Substitutes:

Cllr Ernie Clark	Cllr Tom James MBE
Cllr Christopher Devine	Cllr John Knight
Cllr Peggy Dow	Cllr Jeff Osborn
Cllr Nick Fogg	Cllr William Roberts

Non-Elected Voting Members:

Rev Alice Kemp	Parent Governor Representative (SEN)
Mr Neil Owen	Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)
Mrs Rosheen Ryan	Parent Governor Representative (Primary)
Dr Mike Thompson	Roman Catholic Church Diocesan Representative

Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

Mrs Di Dale	Further Education Representative
Mr Chris Dark	Secondary Schools Headteacher Representative
Mrs Judith Finney	Primary School Headteachers Representative
John Hawkins	School Teacher Representative
Chris King	Children & Young People's Representative

PART I

Items to be considered while the meeting is opened to the public

1) **Apologies and substitutions**

2) **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** *(Pages 1 - 10)*

To approve and sign the minutes of the Children's Services Select Committee meeting held on 9 June 2011.

3) **Declarations of Interests**

To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

4) **Chairman's Announcements**

5) **Public Participation and Councillors Questions**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public.

Statements

If you would like to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Up to 3 speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each on any agenda item. Please contact the officer named above for any further clarification.

Questions

To receive any questions from members of the public or members of the Council received in accordance with the constitution. Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions in writing to the officer named above (acting on behalf of the Director of Resources) no later than **5pm on Friday 15 July 2011**. Please contact the officer named on the first page of this agenda for further advice. Questions may be asked without notice if the Chairman decides that the matter is urgent.

Details of any questions received will be circulated to Committee members prior to the meeting and made available at the meeting and on the Council's website.

6) **Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Children and Education (DCE)** (Pages 11 - 18)

Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director for the Department of Children and Education to provide a regular update on developments relating to children's services arising from the coalition government.

7) **Budget & Performance Monitoring - DCE (to follow)**

Hard copies of the budget monitoring paper for Cabinet's July meeting will be circulated on 19 July 2011.

There is no performance report this month.

Where possible, members are asked to forward any specific questions regarding the current DCE budget position to the Senior Scrutiny Officer in advance of the meeting.

8) **Future Educational Direction** (Pages 19 - 32)

At the Committee's previous meeting members heard how some local authorities may have no maintained secondary schools in the near future. DCE reported that work was underway to ensure full support remained for Wiltshire's maintained schools, and the Wiltshire Learning Trust was undertaking work to form the Council's offer of support to Wiltshire's non-LA maintained schools.

A report from the Service Director for Schools and Learning is attached providing information on the future educational direction as national systems moves towards a more self-improving, practitioner-led and locally determined model.

The Committee is asked to consider its content the report and respond as appropriate.

9) **Reducing Child Poverty** (Pages 33 - 112)

A report from the Corporate Director for Children's Services and Education, outlining the authority's Reducing Child Poverty is attached.

The Child Poverty Act, which commits this and future governments, to eradicating child poverty by 2020 received Royal Assent in March 2010. The Act requires central government to produce a national strategy and reduce child poverty. It also requires local areas to address child poverty through cooperation between partners, the production of a needs assessment and strategy.

This will be presented for approval by Cabinet on 26th July 2011.

The Committee is asked to consider the information provided and comment as appropriate.

10) **13-19 Commissioning Strategy consultation - Report of the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise** (Pages 113 - 152)

At the Committee's previous meeting, members established a rapid scrutiny exercise to respond to the 13-19 Commissioning Strategy consultation document, with the results of the exercise to be presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

It was also agreed that, at this meeting, the Committee would agree arrangements for scrutiny of the results of the 13-19 Commissioning Strategy consultation and subsequent proposals to Cabinet.

A report outlining the rapid scrutiny group's findings and recommendations is attached. The Committee is asked to endorse the recommendations, and agree whether it wishes to undertake scrutiny of a) the consultation process, and b) the consultation results and subsequent proposals to Cabinet for the 13-19 Commissioning Strategy. These will be presented for approval by Cabinet on 13th September 2011.

11) **Denominational Home to School Transport (to follow)**

A report will follow from the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood and Planning, seeking approval for a change to the Council's Education Transport Policy, including the withdrawal of denominational transport assistance with effect from September 2012.

This will be presented for approval by Cabinet on 26th July 2011.

The Committee is asked to consider the report and comment as appropriate.

12) **Task Group Update** (Pages 153 - 154)

An update on Committee Task Group activity is attached.

13) **Forward Work Programme** (Pages 155 - 162)

A copy of the draft Forward Work Programme is attached for consideration.

14) **Date of Next Meeting**

10.30am, Tuesday 27 September 2011, Monkton Park, Chippenham.

15) **Urgent Items**

Any other items of business which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

16) **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To agree that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Item Number 16 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 and 4 respectively of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

PART II

Items during whose consideration it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

17) **Transformation of the Passenger Assistant Service** *(Pages 163 - 198)*

A report from the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood and Planning proposing options for the future delivery of the Passenger Assistant (PA) service (for both DCE and DCS customers) is attached.

This will be presented for approval by Cabinet on 26th July 2011.

In June 2010, the Committee received a report on joint working between DCE and the Passenger Transport Unit (PTU) to reduce the cost of providing transport for children and young people with SEN. One of the Committee's recommendations was to be kept informed of potential changes to the future provision of Passenger Assistants.

The Committee is asked to consider the report and comment as appropriate.