

AGENDA

Meeting: Children's Services Select Committee
Place: Council Chamber, Monkton Park, Chippenham
Date: Thursday 9 June 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.

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Membership:

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

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
Cllr Mollie Groom	

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) **Election of Chairman**

To elect a Chairman of the Select Committee for 2011/2012.

Nominations will be sought orally from those present at the meeting. Voting will be by way of a show of hands.

2) **Election of Vice Chairman**

To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Select Committee for 2011/2012.

Nominations will be sought orally from those present at the meeting. Voting will be by way of a show of hands.

3) **Apologies and substitutions**

Apologies have been received from Carolyn Godfrey.

4) **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** *(Pages 1 - 6)*

To confirm and sign the minutes as a correct record of the Childrens' Services Select Committee meeting held on 17 March 2011.

5) **Declarations of Interests**

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

6) **Chairman's Announcements**

7) **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 Thursday 2 June 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.

8) **Coalition Update - May 2011** *(Pages 7 - 20)*

Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director for DCE, will present the update attached on the Coalition Government's proposals for children's services and education.

9) **Budget & Performance update**

Hard copies of the budget monitoring and performance papers for Cabinet's May meeting will be circulated on 6th June 2011.

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

10) **Review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision - Update on Implementation** *(Pages 21 - 26)*

A report from the Corporate Director for the Department for Children & Education providing an update on progress with the implementation of the proposals relating to the Review of SEN Provision 2009/10.

In November 2010, the Committee received an update on how individual transition plans for those young people affected by the Review were being progressed. Members requested a further update six months hence.

The Manager for Inclusion will attend to answer members' questions.

11) **Update on the Strategic Direction of Small Schools** *(Pages 27 - 32)*

A report from the Corporate Director for the Department for Children & Education providing an update on the position in relation to small schools,

particularly in the primary phase. It highlights the developments and progress made and captures some of the emerging challenges in the light of the changing national and local policy development and sets out next steps.

The Head of School Improvement will attend to answer members' questions.

12) **Consultation on School Funding Reform** (Pages 33 - 68)

A report from the Corporate Director for the Department for Children & Education presenting Wiltshire's response to two consultations on school funding reform published by the Department for Education (DfE).

In the White Paper, *The Importance of Teaching*, the Government set out its view that the current school funding system is opaque, full of anomalies and unfair and therefore in need of reform. The Government has now consulted on the merits of a national funding formula to ensure a clearer, more transparent and fairer school funding system, including for Academies and Free Schools, based on the needs of pupils.

Wiltshire's responses to these consultations are attached to the report. In each case the response is a joint response from the Council and Schools Forum and it should be noted that the views of Schools Forum include the views of head teachers from both maintained schools and academies in Wiltshire.

13) **Scrutiny of Procurement & Commissioning** (Pages 69 - 72)

A report from the Designated Scrutiny Officer is attached proposing a revised approach to the scrutiny of procurement and commissioning.

In November, the Organisation & Resources Select Committee considered a report on the challenges faced by the Council in driving a more focused and professional approach into the Council's procurement and commissioning activities and outlined options on how best to scrutinise this area of work in the future. Following this, the O&S Liaison Board considered a report which provided details of a proposed approach to future scrutiny of procurement and commissioning. The Board resolved that future scrutiny would be dealt with by way of a dedicated Procurement and Commissioning Task Group, reporting directly to the Organisation & Resources Select Committee and replacing the Major Contract Task Groups. The proposed new approach has also now been approved by the Environment and Health & Adult Social Care Select Committees.

The Committee is now asked to consider and approve the recommendations provided within the attached report.

14) **Task Group Update** (Pages 73 - 76)

An update on Committee Task Group activity is attached.

15) **Forward Work Programme** *(Pages 77 - 84)*

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

16) **Date of Next Meeting**

22 July 2011.

17) **Urgent Items**

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

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

NONE