

AGENDA

Meeting: Children's Services Select Committee
Place: Council Chamber, Bradley Road, Trowbridge
Date: Tuesday 27 September 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 (Vice Chairman)
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

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 - 12)*

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Children's Services Select Committee held on 22 July 2011 (copy attached).

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 **Tuesday 20 September 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) **Report of the Denominational Home-to-School Transport rapid scrutiny exercise** *(Pages 13 - 32)*

To present for retrospective endorsement the report of the Denominational Home-to-School Transport rapid scrutiny exercise, which took place on 8th September with Cllr Carole Soden as the Lead Member. The report was referred directly to Cabinet for consideration, alongside a report from the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood and Planning seeking Cabinet approval for a change to the Council's policy in respect of denominational home-to-school transport.

On 13th September, Cabinet made the following decision:

That Cabinet approves the following change to the Council's Education Transport Policy in respect of denominational home to school transport in order to achieve financial savings:

Withdraw discretionary home to school transport assistance for children attending a denominational school on grounds of their religion with effect from September 2012 but with transitional provisions to assist all pupils who are already receiving transport subject to the following:

- **except where there is a legal entitlement to free transport (i.e. for low income families in certain circumstances, as described in paragraph 3 of the report presented);**
- **during 2011/2012 Council officers would seek to support the schools to arrange their own transport, to try and ensure that, as far as possible, transport continues to be available but funded by the users or from other sources rather than by the Council and**
- **the Council would provide a fixed amount of funding direct to the schools, to assist them with the costs of providing transport for all pupils who are already attending the school, each year until they leave. The payment would be made once each year and would be for a fixed amount per pupil, for each child still attending the school who was receiving transport in the 2011/12 academic year. The overall amount paid by the Council would therefore decrease each year as successive year groups leave the school. The amount paid per pupil would be set at £409 per pupil (adjusted for any extraordinary costs), which is equivalent to the average overall cost per head of providing the existing transport in 2011/12, less the 2011/12 parental contribution. Transport would have to be arranged by the schools affected.**

Reason for Decision:

To achieve savings that will be required to balance the budget over a number of years, whilst providing continuity of education for pupils already attending a denominational school, and to support schools in making their own arrangements for pupil transport.

The following documents are attached:

1. The report of the Denominational Home-to-School Transport rapid scrutiny exercise, plus appendices;
2. Responses from Cllr Dick Tonge, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, to the recommendations of the Rapid Scrutiny Group

Members are asked to endorse the report of the rapid scrutiny exercise and note the responses of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport. Cllr Richard Gamble, Portfolio Holder for Public Transport will attend to answer members' questions.

7) **Report of the 11 to 19 Commissioning Strategy rapid scrutiny exercise**
(Pages 33 - 42)

To present for retrospective endorsement the report of the 11 to 19 Commissioning Strategy rapid scrutiny exercise, which took place on 9th September with Cllr Jon Hubbard as the Lead Member. The report was referred directly to Cabinet for consideration, alongside a report from the Corporate Director for Children and Education seeking Cabinet adoption of the 11 to 19 Commissioning Strategy.

On 13th September, Cabinet made the following decision:

That Cabinet agrees the strategic direction and priorities outlined in the 11 to 19 Commissioning Strategy as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report presented, including agreeing the following:

- (a) **The commissioning priorities outlined in section 6 of the strategy and highlighted in section 15 of the report presented;**
- (b) **The Wiltshire Youth Work Offer for young people aged 13 to 19 also outlined in section 6 of the Strategy and sections 22 and 23 of the report presented and**
- (c) **The savings from youth work services budgets outlined in section 24 of the report presented.**

Reason for Decision:

The Wiltshire Children and Young People's Trust brings together all agencies working with children and young people in Wiltshire. The Trust has developed a commissioning strategy covering services for the 11 to 19 age range. The strategy sets out the strategic direction for services for this age range including services purchased and provided by Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council Cabinet is being asked to endorse and approve the strategy including the

commissioning priorities.

The 11 to 19 strategy includes plans for reshaping youth services in Wiltshire and for making the savings from the transformation of youth work services noted in the Council's Financial Plan for 2011 to 2015.

The following documents are attached:

3. The report of the 11 to 19 Commissioning Strategy rapid scrutiny exercise;
4. Responses from Cllr Lionel Grundy, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, to the recommendations of the Rapid Scrutiny Group.

Members are asked to endorse the report of the rapid scrutiny exercise and note the response from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

8) **Coalition Update** (Pages 43 - 50)

The 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.

9) **Budget and Performance Monitoring - Department for Children & Education** (Pages 51 - 70)

The Revenue Budget Monitoring report presented to Cabinet on 13th September is attached, together with an edited version of the Appendix (showing only DCE's departmental risk analysis).

A version of the Business Plan Scorecard report presented to Cabinet on 13th September is also attached, edited to contain only information pertinent to children and education.

Members are asked to note the reports.

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

10) **Ofsted Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Arrangements** (Pages 71 - 96)

A report by the Corporate Director, Department for Children & Education is attached, which updates members on the findings of the recent inspection which took place in July 2011.

11) **Multi-Agency Thresholds Document** *(Pages 97 - 136)*

A report by the Corporate Director, Department for Children and Education is attached which briefs members on the new Multi-agency Thresholds document that is currently being used in Wiltshire.

12) **Task Group update** *(Pages 137 - 138)*

A report providing updates on Task Group activity is attached. Members are asked to note its contents.

13) **Forward Work Programme** *(Pages 139 - 144)*

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

14) **Date of Next Meeting**

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday 24 November 2011, at Monkton Park, Chippenham, starting at 10.30am.

15) **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