



AGENDA

Meeting: CHILDRENS' SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Place: County Hall, Trowbridge
Committee Room: Committee Room 5
Date: 14 June 2006
Time: 10.00 am **AMENDED TIME**

Please direct any enquiries on this agenda to Karen Linaker, Scrutiny Support Officer, Corporate & Library Services Department, County Hall, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 713056 or e-mail karenlinaker@wiltshire.gov.uk

Briefing Arrangements: 14th June at 9.30am (Scrutiny Office)

Councillors

Mr P Coleman
Mr A Davis
Mr T Deane
Dr J English
Mrs M Groom
Mrs G Hill
Mr W Moss

Mr S Oldrieve
Mr R Rogers
Mrs P Rugg
Mr C Newbury
Mrs C Soden
Mr C Winchcombe

Non-Elected Voting

Ms R MacDonald: Parent Governor (Primary)
Mrs E Leonard: Parent Governor (Special Needs)
Ms J Miller: Parent Governor (Secondary)
Mr W Snow: Church of England Representative
Dr M Thompson: Catholic Diocese Representative

PART I

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

1. **Membership** The Committee is asked to note membership as set out above
2. **Election of Chairman** The Committee will be asked to nominate a Chairman
3. **Election of Vice-chairman** The Committee will be asked to nominate a Vice-Chairman
4. **Apologies**
5. **Chairman's Announcements**
6. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd February 2006 (copy attached).
7. **Members' Interests** To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.
8. **Public Participation** The County Council welcomes contributions from members of the public and has agreed to set aside 15 minutes at the beginning of meetings for questions or statements. Members of the public wishing to ask a question or make a statement should give written notice (including details of any question or statement) to the officer named above **by 12.00 Noon on Friday 9th June 2006.**
9. **Member Requests** None.

Agenda Items For Discussion

** a copy of the Reports for items 10 and 11 is enclosed for those Committee members who have not already received a copy

10. **Report of the Contracted Out Placements for Children & Young People Scrutiny Task Group**

To receive the final report of the Contracted Out Placements for Children & Young People Scrutiny Task Group. Mrs Wayman, Chairman of the Task Group will present the report and ask the Committee to endorse its findings and recommendations, which will then be considered by Cabinet on the 20th June 2006 and the Schools Forum on the 22nd June 2006 (report enclosed**).

11. Report of the School Catering Scrutiny Task Group

To receive the final report of the School Catering Scrutiny Task Group. Mrs Rooke, Chairman of the Task Group will present the report and ask the Committee to endorse its findings and recommendations. This was set up as a joint task group across all three main scrutiny committees, and therefore the report is being considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the June 2006 round of meetings.

Members will recall that this was the successor to the original Sodexho School Meals Scrutiny Task Group which reported back in May 2005.

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to endorse the findings and recommendations of the report, which will be considered by Cabinet on the 25th July 2006 (report enclosed**).

12. Special Educational Needs – Strategy Monitoring Board

To receive an update report from the Special Educational Needs Strategy Monitoring Board (report enclosed).

13. Council's Budget 2006-07 - Corporate Recovery Plan

A letter was sent on behalf of the chairmen of the overview and scrutiny committees to all members on 24 May setting out intentions as to how scrutiny might engage with the Corporate Recovery Plan in the light of comments made at full Council on 16 May and the decisions of Cabinet on 23 May.

The most significant of the proposals is to establish a joint scrutiny task group of 6 members from the non-executive membership of the Council (2 to represent the each of the 3 main overview and scrutiny committees). Its terms of reference would be:

- (1) To scrutinise the details of the Executive's proposals in the Corporate Recovery Plan as they are developed and consulted upon with a focus on options, service implications and impact on users.
- (2) To provide a forum to reflect the voice and concerns of communities and the public, and a focus for non-executive member views on specific service issues.

- (3) In the first instance, to hold meetings at suitable times in order to give views and make recommendations to Cabinet on the detail of the proposals relating to the current year in advance of its meetings on 20 June and 25 July.

The proposals for increased challenge in respect of budget content and monitoring are set out as recommendations in the annual report of the Budget Process Scrutiny Task Group. This Task Group is also pursuing the issue of financial management in the Department for Adult Care Services.

The Committee is being asked to approve the establishment of the joint scrutiny task group, which will report direct to Cabinet.

14. Holding the Executive to Public Account

- (i) The following items are listed in the Cabinet's latest rolling Forward Plan for July 2006 to October 2006 which relate to Children's Services:

School Catering Scrutiny Task Group – To consider the final report and recommendations of the School Catering Scrutiny Task Group. (Cabinet – 25th July 2006)

Residential Services Contract for Looked After Children & Young People – To consider the contract for residential services for looked after children and young people (Cabinet - 25th July 2006)

- (ii) The minutes of Cabinet are available on the Council's website.

(NB. These are required to be published normally within 2 working days of the meeting. This Committee, through its Chairman or 3 Members of the Committee, has the power to call in (i.e. delay implementation) of a decision in exceptional circumstances should it have concerns. The Constitution sets out the procedure to be followed should this happen.

This Committee may also wish to review a decision of the Executive retrospectively, for example, to satisfy itself that the decision has been properly implemented or has achieved the aims that were intended.

Any Member of the Committee or any 5 Members of the Council can also request an item on the agenda of the Committee – using the appropriate form.)

Again, should Members wish to raise specific issues it would be helpful to have advance notice so that further information can be sought.

15. **Work Programme**

The Committee is asked to note the content of the work programme, which, following discussions at the 12th June Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Development Day will be revised and submitted to the Committee for agreement at the September meeting.

16. **Urgent Items**

Any other items of business which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered as a matter of urgency. Urgent items of a confidential nature may be considered under Part II of this agenda.

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
