



**Notice of meeting of
Education Scrutiny Committee**

To: Councillors Kirk (Chair), Brooks (Vice-Chair), Alexander, Gunnell, Hyman, Merrett and Morley

Co-opted Statutory Members:

Mr John Bailey (Parent Governor Representative) and Dr David Sellick (Church of England Representative)

Date: Tuesday, 11 September 2007

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: The Guildhall, York

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest (Pages 3 - 4)

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda. A list of general personal interests previously declared are attached.

2. Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)

To approve and sign the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 18 July 2007.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Committee's remit can do so. Anyone who wishes to register or requires further information is requested to contact the Democracy Officer on the contact details listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering is Monday 10 September at 5:00pm.

4. Possible Education Scrutiny Topics (Pages 9 - 22)

This report provides Members with background information on two presentations they will be receiving on possible future education scrutiny topics.

5. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972

Democracy Officer:

Name: Louise Cook

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551027
- E-mail – louise.cook@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

About City of York Council Meetings

Would you like to speak at this meeting?

If you would, you will need to:

- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
- find out about the rules for public speaking from the Democracy Officer.

A leaflet on public participation is available on the Council's website or from Democratic Services by telephoning York (01904) 551088

Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

All the reports which Members will be considering are available for viewing online on the Council's website. Alternatively, copies of individual reports or the full agenda are available from Democratic Services. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the agenda for the meeting. **Please note a small charge may be made for full copies of the agenda requested to cover administration costs.**

Access Arrangements

We will make every effort to make the meeting accessible to you. The meeting will usually be held in a wheelchair accessible venue with an induction hearing loop. We can provide the agenda or reports in large print, electronically (computer disk or by email), in Braille or on audio tape. Some formats will take longer than others so please give as much notice as possible (at least 48 hours for Braille or audio tape).

If you have any further access requirements such as parking close-by or a sign language interpreter then please let us know. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the order of business for the meeting.

Every effort will also be made to make information available in another language, either by providing translated information or an interpreter providing sufficient advance notice is given. Telephone York (01904) 551550 for this service.

যদি যথেষ্ট আগে থেকে জানানো হয় তাহলে অন্য কোন অর্ধাতে তথ্য জানানোর জন্য সব ধরনের চেষ্টা করা হবে, এর জন্য দরকার হলে তথ্য অনুবাদ করে দেয়া হবে অথবা একজন দোঅবী সারবরাহ করা হবে। টেলিফোন নম্বর (01904) 551 550।

Yeteri kadar önceden haber verilmesi koşuluyla, bilgilerin terümesini hazırlatmak ya da bir tercüman bulmak için mümkün olan herşey yapılacaktır. Tel: (01904) 551 550

我們竭力使提供的資訊備有不同語言版本，在有充足時間提前通知的情況下會安排筆譯或口譯服務。電話 (01904) 551 550。

اگر مناسب وقت سے اطلاع دی جاتی ہے تو ہم معلومات کا ترجمہ مہیا کرنے کی پوری کوشش کریں گے۔ ٹیلی فون (01904) 551 550

Informacja może być dostępna w tłumaczeniu, jeśli dostaniemy zapotrzebowanie z wystarczającym wyprzedzeniem. Tel: (01904) 551 550

Holding the Executive to Account

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Executive (38 out of 47). Any 3 non-Executive councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Executive (or Executive Member Advisory Panel (EMAP)) agenda. The Executive will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Executive meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

Scrutiny Committees

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

Who Gets Agenda and Reports for our Meetings?

- Councillors get copies of all agenda and reports for the committees to which they are appointed by the Council;
- Relevant Council Officers get copies of relevant agenda and reports for the committees which they report to;
- Public libraries get copies of **all** public agenda/reports.

EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda item I: Declarations of interest.

Please state any amendments you have to your declarations of interest:

Councillor Hyman - Chair of Governors at Huntington Primary School;

Councillor Merrett - as his daughter attended St Paul's Primary School;

Co-opted statutory members

Dr D Sellick – Governor of Derwent Infant and Junior School

Mr J Bailey – Governor of Huntington School and Huntington Primary School

This page is intentionally left blank

City of York Council

Minutes

MEETING	EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	18 JULY 2007
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS KIRK (CHAIR), BROOKS (VICE-CHAIR), ALEXANDER, GUNNELL, HYMAN, MORLEY, LOOKER (SUBSTITUTE FOR MERRETT), MR J BAILEY AND DR D SELLICK
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR MERRETT

6. Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business agenda.

The following general personal non-prejudicial interests were declared:

Councillor Hyman as chair of governors at Huntington Primary School.

Councillor Looker as sub-governor at Park Grove School and Canon Lee School.

Dr D Sellick as a governor of Derwent Infant and Junior School.

Mr J Bailey as a governor of Huntington School and Huntington Primary School.

7. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: To consider excluding the public and press from the meeting during consideration of Annex 2 of Annex E to Agenda item 6 (Possible Scrutiny Reviews) on the grounds that it contains information relation to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) This information is classed as exempt under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1973 (as revised by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006)

8. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

9. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Councils Public Participation Scheme.

10. Security in Schools - Additional Information

Members received additional statistical information provided by Safer York Partnership in relation to the crime rates in York Schools since 1 April 2004.

In June 2007, Members considered a feasibility report on a possible review of security in Schools. This included some statistical information on crime rates in York schools between April 2006 and March 2007. Although Members were pleased at the overall low figures they queried whether the figures represented a particularly good year or if they were typical crime rates for every year. In order to clarify this Members requested two further years worth of statistics 2004-05 and 2005-2006.

To inform any decision on whether to proceed with a review on security in schools, Members discussed and considered the additional statistical information. As the crime rates had improved it was agreed that a review would not be needed but Members agreed it was important to monitor the improvements by receiving 07/08 figures when available.

RESOLVED: That this topic does not proceed to review but that improvements be monitored by the Committee by considering the 07/08 figures when available.

REASON: As crime rates at schools were improving.

11. Possible Future Scrutiny Reviews

Members received a report with information on two possible scrutiny topics "Children's Health, Fitness and Diets" and "Role of School Governors", which had previously been considered and deferred.

To inform any decision on whether to proceed with a review on school meals, Members discussed and considered the information at annexes A-E including the School Meals Service report. It was recommended that this topic be removed from the list of possible topics and no review was to take place as it had superseded by subsequent events including the Healthy Schools initiative,

In regard to the topic on the Role of School Governors, Members discussed and considered the information at Annex F. It was recommended that before reaching a view on whether to proceed with this topic Members receive a presentation from the Governance Services Manager. It was proposed that the Executive Member for Children's Services be invited to the next meeting to speak and highlight any areas where a scrutiny review may be helpful. At the next meeting the Director of

Learning, Culture and Children's Services agreed to do a presentation on current areas of work followed by a discussion on possible Scrutiny topics.

- RESOLVED: (i) The report relating to School Meals be noted and that the topic of Children's Health, Fitness and Diets not proceed to review.
- (ii) That the following be scheduled for the next meeting:
- Presentation from the Governance Services Manager
 - Discussion with the Executive Member regarding possible scrutiny topics.
 - Presentation and discussion with the Director of Learning, Cultural & Children's Services regarding possible scrutiny topics.

- REASON: (i) As it had been superseded by subsequent events including the Healthy Schools initiative.
- (ii) To ensure any decision on whether to proceed with a review is fully informed.

CLLR M KIRK
Chair of Scrutiny Committee
The meeting started at 5.10 pm and finished at 5.55 pm.

This page is intentionally left blank



Education Scrutiny Committee

11 September 2007

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

Possible Education Scrutiny Topics

Summary

1. This report provides Members with background information on two presentations they will be receiving on possible future education scrutiny topics.

Background

2. Role of School Governors
In May 2005 Cllr Kind registered a topic on the Role of School Governors and as a result Education Scrutiny Committee considered a feasibility report on this topic at a meeting in October 2006 - see Annexes A and B.
3. Cllr Bradley offered to arrange for information on the changes to the role of governor to be presented to a future meeting of Children's Services EMAP. This was discussed with the Governance Service Manager who understood that if a decision was taken to proceed with a review, it would look at the ever changing level of responsibility associated with the role of Governor, rather than changes to the actual role. Some time later, the Governance Service Manager was led to believe that this report is no longer required and therefore no report was presented to Children's Services EMAP.
4. At a meeting of this Committee on 18 July 2007 this topic was reconsidered and in order to decide whether to proceed with a review, Members agreed to receive a presentation from the Governance Services Manager at their next meeting in September 2007.
5. Other Possible Topics
Also for the next meeting, It was proposed that:
 - the Executive Member for Children's Services be invited to attend to highlight any educational issues which might benefit from a scrutiny review
 - the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services attend to discuss current areas of work within the Directorate
6. It was expected that the information provided would inform a debate on possible future scrutiny topics.

Consultation

7. In an effort to ensure thorough consideration is given to any future scrutiny topics registered as a result of this meeting, full consultation will take place with all interested parties as part of the feasibility process.

Options

8. Having regard to the agreed scrutiny procedures, Members may decide to register any possible education scrutiny topics arising from the information provided at this meeting.

Corporate Objectives

9. In regard to the provision of education, it is recognised that any recommendations arising from a scrutiny review which aims to improve the Authority's policies and procedures could contribute to Corporate Priority No.8 – Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city.

Implications

10. There are no known legal, financial, HR, Equalities, Crime & Disorder, ITT or other implications associated with the contents of this report.

Risk Management

11. There are no known risks, associated with the recommendation made within this report.

Recommendations

12. Members are asked to note all the information provided in the report and presentation given at the meeting and agree any future education scrutiny topics to be registered.

Reason: To ensure any future reviews are progressed in a timely manner and in line with agreed scrutiny procedures

Contact Details

Author:

Melanie Carr
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
Tel No.01904 552063

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Suzan Hemingway
Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

Report Approved

Date 28 .09.2007

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – Topic Registration Form

Annex B – Feasibility Report

This page is intentionally left blank



SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION FORM

Dear Reader

Scrutiny Members examine the decisions, policies and performance of the Council and make recommendations where they feel things could be improved for the citizens of York.

This non-Executive Member cross-party role was created by the Local Government Act 2000 which is all about modernising local government and creating better ways for citizens to be more involved in local decision making.

The scrutiny boards will consider possible suggestions about issues to look at from anyone, so long as these are not specific issues of an individual nature which should be taken up with a local Councillor or addressed through the Corporate Complaints system.

Scrutiny at York has already investigated things as diverse as the response to the 2000 'Floods', provision for 'Young People in York', 'Rail Side Safety' and 'Street Cleaning'.

If you have a suggestion for something the scrutiny boards might consider, then please fill in this registration form and return it to us, either by post or by e-mail.

Madeleine Kirk

Cllr Madeleine Kirk
Chair, Scrutiny Management Committee

SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION FORM

<p>SUGGESTED TITLE OF TOPIC</p> <p>The Role of School Governors</p>
--

<p>ABOUT YOU Please fill in as many of the details as you are able to.</p>	
<p>Title (delete as applicable):</p> <p>Other please state: Cllr</p>	
<p>First Name: Viv</p>	<p>Surname: Kind</p>
<p>Address: 1 Sefton Avenue York YO31 9LR</p>	<p>Daytime Phone: 01904 426909</p> <p>Evening Phone: same</p> <p>Email: cllr.vkind@york.gov.uk</p>
<p>Are You (delete as applicable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resident of York • A Visitor • A City of York Councillor • A City of York Council Employee • A Representative of a Voluntary Organisation or Charitable Trust (if YES please tell us the organisations title and your relationship to the organisation below) • Other (please comment) 	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p> <p>YES</p> <p>NO</p> <p>YES / NO</p>

ABOUT YOUR PROPOSED TOPIC

Please write your responses to as many of the questions below as you are able to.

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS TOPIC IS IMPORTANT?

School Governors' responsibilities have increased greatly during the last few years. Governors have a major contribution to make to the running of and achievement in our schools. They cannot do this in isolation and must work in partnership with schools and with the LEA. It would be useful to explore these relationships to ensure that governors are able to make best use of their roles and responsibilities, and that we are securing the optimum outcome for schools and for our children and young people.

DO YOU KNOW IF THIS TOPIC IS IMPORTANT TO OTHER PEOPLE? IF SO, WHO AND WHY?

It must be important to children and young people in securing best outcomes for them. Some governors have told me it is important for them to ensure they are making the contribution they would want to their schools. Schools may also benefit from the opportunity to ensure they are getting the maximum support from their governing bodies

WHAT DO YOU THINK SCRUTINY OF THIS TOPIC MIGHT CHANGE, DO OR ACHIEVE?

The aim would be to achieve better outcomes for children. The topic should allow us to identify any improvements that can be made in how governors could exercise their responsibilities, and any additional support that can be provided for governors by schools and/or the LEA.

DO YOU HAVE IDEAS ABOUT THE APPROACH SCRUTINY MEMBERS MIGHT TAKE TO YOUR SUGGESTED TOPIC?

Seek information to understand what the roles and responsibilities of governors are. Talk to governors, governance service, schools, LEA officers, and children and young people and their parents and carers.

WOULD YOU BE HAPPY TO TALK TO SCRUTINY MEMBERS ABOUT YOUR PROPOSED TOPIC AT FORMAL MEETINGS?

Yes

PLEASE ENCLOSE ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS OR OTHER INFORMATION YOU FEEL MIGHT BE USEFUL BACKGROUND TO THE SUBMISSION OF THIS TOPIC FOR CONSIDERATION.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

Thank you for proposing a new scrutiny topic. As Members of the Scrutiny Management Committee and Scrutiny Boards we promise the following things;

- To advise you of any meetings where a decision will be taken as to whether to progress your topic and invite you to attend
- If Members would like you to speak in support of your topic at such meetings you will be notified and supported through the process by a Scrutiny Officer
- If you do not wish to speak you do not have to; your choice will not influence fair consideration of your topic.

Please return this form to the address below or send it by email. If you want any more information about Scrutiny or submitting a new topic for consideration then please contact the Scrutiny Team.

By Writing to:

The Scrutiny Services Team
C/o The Guildhall
York
YO1 9QN

Or Email: Scrutiny.services@york.gov.uk

Or Phone: 01904 552038

For Scrutiny Administration Only

Topic Identity Number	127
Date Received	Tuesday, 17 May 2005
SC1- date sent	Tuesday, 17 May 2005

This page is intentionally left blank

Report on results of feasibility consultation on the Role of School Governors - Ref no 127.

Policy Unit Response:

Officers in the Policy Unit were not aware of any duplicating work connected with this issue. They think it could be a quite timely topic in that lots of changes are underway or planned in connection with the implementation of the Children Act in schools. Governors' roles and responsibilities might evolve as a result of these changes - scrutiny might like to consider this too

Equalities:

School Governors' responsibilities have increased greatly during the last few years. Governors have a major contribution to make to the running of and achievement in our schools. They cannot do this in isolation and must work in partnership with schools and with the LEA. It would be useful to explore these relationships to ensure that governors are able to make best use of their roles and responsibilities, and that we are securing the optimum outcome for schools and for our children and young people.

Governors have an important role to play in supporting the inclusion agenda. The Inclusion Strategy, developed as a result of Scrutiny Board recommendations in April 2003 states:

Historically, some groups of children have tended to do less well in our schools than other children. The groups more likely to underachieve include those with special educational needs, children with disabilities, children from black and minority ethnic communities, children in public care, children with additional needs and those facing other challenging personal and social circumstances.

Effective schools are inclusive schools . . . they respect difference and have a commitment to offering all children access to learning opportunities. Such schools will also have good links with parents and with their communities.

In order to develop 'inclusive' schools we must pay attention to the development of 'inclusive' cultures and, particularly, to the building of some degree of consensus around inclusive values in each school's community. Headteachers and other school leaders are particularly important in the development of 'inclusive' schools. Their own commitment to inclusive values and their capacity to get participation and consensus within their schools is significant. This has implications

for the criteria on which school leaders are selected and for the sort of training they receive.

Governors have an important role to play in supporting the inclusion agenda. This scrutiny topic could usefully consider:

- How well governing bodies in their composition reflect the diversity amongst pupils and the local community – and how more parents and local people from under-represented groups could be involved?
- How can governors better support the inclusion agenda? What support or training would help with this? Do the existing roles and responsibilities of governors facilitate this?

Community Strategy:

The community strategy doesn't refer to the role of School Governors specifically but it does set out strategic aims in relation to learning that would be relevant to this topic:

- To give our children the best start in life, even before they reach school;
- To redefine learning to enable people to develop the attitudes, skills and sense of purpose, which can help to build confident and creative communities.
- To increase the achievement of all school pupils at every stage in their education;
- To improve levels of literacy and numeracy;
- To encourage and value all forms of creativity and talent;

We also aim to 'encourage and nurture the potential and energy of children and young people' (Inclusive City aim 6)

Performance Monitoring:

School Governance have no complaints recorded against their service, but they have recently dropped below the Customer First Standard Target for answering phone calls within 20 secs, the last quarter it was recorded as 81% a drop from 96% in the 1st quarter of 2004/05, this is not consistent with the history of performance for this statistic over the last couple of years where they have been above the 95% target.

Marketing and Communications:

There hasn't been much interest in the role of school governors nationally, but I think we could generate some interest in the local media through press releases - there must be several hundred governors across the city.

Director of Education and Leisure:

The Governance Service and support for school governors is a unique service within the Council. However, there is potential for other agencies to become involved. For example, the teaching unions may undertake training for staff governors.

It is true that the remit of governors is broadening. With the extended schools initiative they are being asked to take responsibility for an increasing range of educational and out-of-hours provision. It may be advantageous for Members to become more aware of the role of governors and to examine the provision offered by the LEA to support them.

The governance service is a small, tight unit with little capacity for undertaking additional work. The time required to undertake this scrutiny exercise would stretch current resources and it may be that some additional administrative support would be required.

Report prepared by Barbara Boyce Date report prepared 25 May 2005
For further information please contact the author of the report

This page is intentionally left blank