
MEETING	EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	3 APRIL 2008
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS KIRK (CHAIR), BROOKS (VICE-CHAIR), ALEXANDER, GUNNELL, HYMAN, MERRETT, MORLEY, MR J BAILEY AND DR D SELICK (CO-OPTED MEMBERS)

33. 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 on the agenda, in addition to the list of general personal interests circulated with the agenda. No additional interests were declared.

34. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

35. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

36. INTERIM REPORT FOR SCHOOL GOVERNORS REVIEW (PART A)

Members considered a fourth interim report on the scrutiny review of the role of School Governors (Part A). The report set out details of work on the review to date. It also provided additional information relating to the survey of individual governors, following the informal consultation session held after the last meeting, and presented a further draft questionnaire to governing bodies.

Details of the comments made by governors at the consultation session, and the Committee's responses, were attached as Annex A to the report. Additional comments provided by governors on their completed survey forms were set out in Annex B. Officers reported that there had been an error in the number of returned survey forms indicated in this report and the report to the last meeting. In fact, only about 354 forms had been returned; approximately one-third of the total sent out. This meant that the apparent lack of response to particular questions, as highlighted in the reports, was no longer an issue, since it reflected the overall response to the survey rather than a reluctance to answer certain questions.

In respect of the key objective *'to identify ways of increasing the number of Community Governors'*, it was reported that the exit questionnaire considered by Members at their meeting in January had now been circulated, but no completed forms were available as yet. It had already

been agreed that the latest interim report would be sent to governing bodies, along with a questionnaire requesting further information to support the review. A draft questionnaire and covering letter were attached as Annex C to the report.

Members discussed and agreed a number of amendments that they felt should be made to the interim report, covering letter and questionnaire before these documents were sent out to governing bodies for consideration at their full governors' meetings over the half term period.

RESOLVED: (i) That the interim report be amended to reflect the true position regarding the number of completed governor survey forms received, as reported at the meeting.

(ii) That the covering letter at Annex C be amended to reflect the true position on the number of completed survey forms received, and also to:

- express the Committee's thanks and appreciation to those who responded to the survey;
- clarify that governing bodies are welcome to provide feedback on the interim report, as well as responding to the questionnaire;
- include a paragraph seeking information on governing bodies' involvement in extended schools (Part B of the remit of this scrutiny topic);
- emphasise the deadline date for responses, 19 May, by putting it in bold text.

(iii) That amendments be made to the questionnaire at Annex C, as requested by Members at the meeting.*

(iv) That the Scrutiny Officer circulate the amended documents to Members by e-mail for comment prior to sending them to the governing bodies.

REASONS: To ensure that Members' views on these documents are taken into account and to ensure that work can proceed as planned for this review, whilst complying with scrutiny procedures, protocols and work plans.

** Note: the amended questionnaire is attached as Annex 1 to these minutes.*

37. CHAIR'S REMARKS - FORWARD PLAN

The Chair raised the matter of a forward plan for progressing the Committee's work on future topics for review.

AGREED: That the Chair and Vice-Chair meet with the Scrutiny Officer to draft a forward plan to be presented for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

M Kirk, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 6.55 pm].

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School Governing Body Questionnaire

1. Name of School.....

2. What provision do you make to enable individuals to take on the role of Governor?

Provision of Crèche Facilities

Payment of dependant care costs

Governor Buddy Support System

Varied meeting days and times

Meetings arranged to coincide with available extended service childcare provision

Other (please specify below)

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.....

3. Would you be interested in a once a year conference event? **Yes / No**

4. As a Governing Body would you be prepared to make a contribution towards the costs of your delegates attending ? **Yes / No**

Parent Governor Vacancies

5. Do you have difficulties attracting parents to the role of Governor? **Yes / No**

If Yes, please give details
.....
.....

Community Governor Vacancies

6. Do you have difficulties in recruiting and/or retaining Community Governors? **Yes / No**
If Yes, please give details.....

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.....

7. From what sources do you seek Community Governors?.....

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.....

8. Which sources have been most successful?.....

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.....

9. What reasons to people give for not taking on the role of community governor?.....

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.....

School / Community Cohesion

10. Do you think the composition of your governing body reflects the school's local community? **Yes / No**

11. What involvement does the local community have in the life of your school, and vice versa?.....
.....
.....

12. How does your governing body, and the school, communicate with the school's local community?.....
.....
.....

13. Do you think this reaches all parts of your local community ? **Yes / No**
If Yes, give examples.....
.....
If No, give reasons.....
.....
.....

14. How do you consult the school's local community ?
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.....

15. Are you aware of any need within the school's local community that the school does or could help to meet?
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.....

Extended School Provision

16. What involvement does your governing body have in your extended school provision?.....
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17. What additional use of your facilities would you like to make available to your local community, and what are the constraints on providing it?.....
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