

EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 8 March 2016

Present:

Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P. (Chairman)
Councillor Neil Reddin FCCA (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Teresa Ball, Kathy Bance MBE, Alan Collins,
Mary Cooke, Judi Ellis and Ellie Harmer

Joan McConnell
Darren Jenkins and Mylene Williams
Alison Regester

Also Present:

Councillors Peter Fortune and Tom Philpott

64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bennington and Mary Capon.

65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Declarations of Interest made at the meeting on 8th July 2015 were taken as read. There were no additional declarations of interest.

66 MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2015 AND MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2016 be agreed and signed as a correct record, and that matters outstanding be noted.

67 QUESTIONS TO THE PDS CHAIRMAN FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE MEETING

No questions had been received.

68 QUESTIONS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE MEETING

No questions had been received.

69 PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE

The Portfolio Holder started his updated by thanking the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Committee for their support throughout the municipal year and by noting how quickly the year had seemed to pass. Since the last meeting of the Committee there had been a renewed focus on funding issues with the Secretary of State for Education announcing that there would be a review of school funding with the aim of introducing a fairer funding model for schools. The Portfolio Holder reported that he considered this to be a positive step. To this end, the Portfolio Holder, Director of Education and Director of Finance (as Section 151 Officer) had been attending a number of meetings with colleagues in other Local Authorities in order to bring influence during the consultation process. The Portfolio Holder reported that he believed that the London Borough of Bromley was in an excellent position to take a lead in terms of the impact of the academy programme on education funding.

During the previous week, pupils had received confirmation of their Secondary School place allocation for the 2016/17 academic year. 84% of pupils in Bromley were allocated either their first or second choice of school.

There continued to be a focus on Adult Education and the Portfolio Holder had met with Ofsted for discussions surrounding future provision. The Portfolio Holder also reported that he had received a great deal of correspondence concerning the reorganisation of the Service and that he would be replying to all the letters and emails that had been received.

Finally, the Portfolio Holder had attended a meeting with Early Years Representatives. All issues raised at the meeting would be taken forward.

The Vice-Chairman, with the endorsement of the Chairman and the Committee reported that the Committee would support the Portfolio Holder and Colleagues in other Local Authorities in their efforts to engage with the Secretary of State for Education regarding a fairer funding model for schools.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder update be noted.

70 UPDATE ON YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Report ED16019

Members considered a report which provided an overview of the progress of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) Improvement Plan. The updated

Improvement Plan demonstrated that work had progressed on all planned actions with the exception of 7(d) - Create a service user forum for current and former young people to enable the service to consult effectively - which had been delayed due to other work priorities including the planning and implementation of an IT upgrade. The service continued to work hard to introduce further improvements identified in the plan. Due to a reduction in the Youth Justice Board (YJB) grant during 2016/17 and the need to meet the local savings target it was necessary to reorganise the service to ensure that the team could continue to provide a seamless service. As part of the reorganisation, a decision had been taken to end the NACRO contract to provide an Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) programme. The contract would end on 31 March 2016 after which the ISS programme would be provided in-house by YOS staff and managed by one of the Operational Managers. From April 2016 there would no longer be funding to enable an in-house substance misuse worker or a CAMHs worker. In addition the post of "Counsellor" would also be ending. Instead from 1 April 2016, any young person being assessed as being in need of any of these services would be referred to the Bromley Well Being Service, or the Bromley Young People's Substance Misuse Service. The post of Parenting Worker would also cease from 1 April 2016 with all future referrals for parenting support being directed to the Bromley Children's Project.

Members noted that the service was in the initial phase of planning the implementation of Asset Plus, the national assessment tool used by Youth Offending Services. In addition, Members also noted that the YOS Management Team undertook a thematic audit in December 2015 using police intelligence on young people known to the service who were at risk of being involved in transporting drugs across county lines. The audit had looked at 4 cases and found that Assets were being completed within National Standards timescales. The majority of Assets were judged to be 'good'. The quality of active engagement work being carried out with young people and parents/carers to inform the initial assessment was either good or outstanding. Partnership working on safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of the young person was judged to be 'good' in all cases where this was relevant. The quality of the Intervention Plan for the majority of cases was either 'satisfactory' or 'good'.

The Interim Head of the Youth Offending Service reported that good progress on the current YOS Improvement Plan had been made and that action to develop the next Improvement Plan was being taken by the Management Board. Once the Plan had been developed it would be shared with the Committee.

A number of Members expressed concerns surrounding the reduction in cases that met the standards required in terms of planning as without good planning there could not be good delivery. In response, the Deputy Head of the Youth Offending Service highlighted that there had been a change in the audit tools used by the Service and as a result of this the figures were not directly comparable. It was disappointing that more cases had not met the standard and work was being undertaken to improve standards. However,

staff would continue to receive training on the new audit tool and monitoring would continue. In addition, work was ongoing to recruit more permanent staff in order to bring some additional stability to the Service.

The Chairman noted that a mock inspection of the YOS would be undertaken by the Youth Justice Board. The Chairman requested that the outcome of the mock inspection be circulated to Members of the Committee when it was available.

Another Member expressed concerns surrounding the loss of the post of Parenting Worker and the impact that this may have on the Service. The Interim Head of the YOS responded that the Bromley Children's Project currently worked with parents through the Troubled Families Programme and was therefore very experienced in providing this type of support. A number of very difficult decisions had needed to be made in light of financial constraints. However, the programmes offered by Bromley Children's Project were intense and designed to challenge and support parents in taking responsibility for their children's behaviour. YOS Caseworkers would continue to work with the young offenders and their families and parenting support would be offered to all families.

The Portfolio Holder reported that he saw it as a positive that these issues were being identified while there was excellent interim management in place and support from the Youth Justice Board was ongoing. The Portfolio Holder stressed that the inspection in February 2015 had identified a number of issues with the Service and it would naturally take time to correct these issues. In response to a question, the Portfolio Holder reported that he had the utmost confidence in the staffing and leadership currently in place in the YOS.

The Chairman questioned whether there would be any merit in merging back office functions with other Local Authorities, similar to the Tri-Borough approach. In response the Portfolio Holder stressed that the problems that had been identified during the inspection in February 2015 needed to be addressed and resolved before embarking on any form of shared service.

The Chairman thanked the Interim Head of the YOS and the Deputy Head of the YOS for their ongoing work.

RESOLVED: That

- 1. The progress of the YOS Improvement Plan be noted; and**
- 2. The outcome of the Mock Inspection be circulated to the Committee when it becomes available.**

71 PORTFOLIO HOLDER PROPOSED DECISIONS

A) BASIC NEED UPDATE REPORT

Report ED16030

Members considered a report providing an update on progress in delivering the Council's Basic Need Programme that supported the provision of sufficient pupil places through improvements to and expansion of Bromley Schools and the forward programme for the period 2015-18.

The Council received Basic Need Capital Grant from the DfE to support the delivery of sufficient school places, with a total of £70.9m so far allocated for 2011-2018. The next tranche of Basic Need Capital funding was due to be announced by Government in early 2016, but the announcement had been delayed and was not now expected until after Easter 2016.

The Basic Need capital programme also included capital contributions from a range of other capital funding programmes including Seed Challenge, Access Initiative and Suitability along with Section 106 contributions. The detail of S106 contributions was included within Approval of Procurement Strategy for Basic Need Projects and the Glebe School Expansion and Allocation of Section 106 Funding to education agreed by the Executive on 2 April 2014.

There were currently schemes to the value of £85m either Completed or Projects in Delivery (Funded). These had been allocated £71.7m from the Basic Need Capital Scheme and £10.9m from other sources as detailed in the report. There was currently a £2.4m budget shortfall for these schemes, but this could be covered by the programme contingency. The updated budget contained a contingency of £750,000 to cover the costs of any primary bulge classes required for September 2016. However, potential space for bulge classes had been identified at a number of schools and it was hoped that call on this contingency could be minimised. In addition, a new scheme had been added at Castlecombe School. This project was the first phase in expanding the school to 2FE in KS2 and providing certainty of a place from 2017 to parents of pupils transferring from Dorset Road Infants School.

The increase in overall programme value reflected the increase in the estimated final cost of individual schemes as well as the addition of project management costs related to the programme's delivery. The estimated costs of the scheme at Poverest Primary School had increased during the design development stage due to the need to address the topography of the site and provide a multi-use-games-arena to satisfy Sports England by substituting for playing field lost. At Stewart Fleming Primary School costs had increased as a result of dealing with the constrained nature of the site, having to undertake more structural surveys and the phasing of works. As a result the scheme was likely to be delivered as two distinct projects. These increases in estimated final cost would be reported to the Executive.

The Committee noted that 45 projects within the Basic Need Programme had now been completed, with other significant projects such as Beacon House, Clare House Primary School and Parish CE Primary School nearing completion.

RESOLVED: that

- a) the update list of schemes as outlined at section Appendix 1 of the report be noted;
- b) the new Project in Delivery (Funded) for decant accommodation at Castlecombe Primary School be noted;
- c) the addition of the scheme at Mead Road Infants as a Project in Development be noted;
- d) the estimated increase in final cost of the schemes at Poverest Primary School and Stewart Fleming Primary School be noted; and
- e) the Portfolio Holder for Education be recommended to authorise the Director of Education to support schools in seeking planning permission at the appropriate time.

72 AUTHORISATION TO ENTER INTO DYNAMIC PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH LONDON CONSORTIUM FOR THE PURCHASING OF INDEPENDENT SPECIALIST SEN PLACEMENTS

This Item was withdrawn following the publication of the agenda.

73 SEND REFORMS - DRAW DOWN AND CARRY FORWARD OF GRANT FUNDING

Report ED16020

Members considered a report seeking approval for the carry forward of the SEN Implementation (New Burdens) Grant 2015/16, the London SEND Regional Lead Grant 2015/16, and the SEN Implementation (New Burdens) Grant 2016/17. The Committee noted that at its meeting on 24 March 2015, the Executive approved the drawdown of £148,000 of the non-ring-fenced £176,000 SEN Implementation (New Burdens) Grant 2015/16, with the £28,000 remainder to remain in the Council's Central Contingency for drawdown at a later date. It was now requested that this £28,000 be carried forward and drawn-down into the 2016/17 budget. A second non-ring-fenced grant was received for 2015/16, the SEND Regional Lead Grant of £62,000, which replaced the previous SEND Pathfinder Grant, and which was approved for drawdown by Executive on 14th October 2015. Due to the lateness in the grant announcement and the time required to recruit temporary skilled staff, there was a projected underspend of £15,000 on the SEND Pathfinder Grant in 2015/16, and a £80,000 underspend on the SEN

Implementation (New Burdens) Grant. It was requested that these underspends were carried forward to the 2016/17 budget. In addition, confirmation of further funding had recently been received, with the Council allocated £210,000 SEN Implementation (New Burdens) Grant 2016/17. It was requested that £180,000 of this was drawn-down to the 2016/17 budget with the remaining £21,000 to remain in Central Contingency for drawdown at a later date if required. This would provide a total of £303,000 funding for 2016/17. The funding would be used to continue the extra capacity to deliver the transitions of statements to EHC plans or pupil resource agreements; review current SEND services and provisions; embed the new policies and practices; develop robust systems for recording and monitoring the EHC process, Personal Budgets and ensure the workforce had a clear understanding of policy and practice. A total of £32,000 would be provided to third parties, and £271,000 used to employ a total of 7 FTE temporary staff.

RESOLVED: That the Executive be recommended to

- (a) Approve the carry forward and drawdown of £28,000 grant for 2015/16 to the 2016/17 budget.**
- (b) Approve the carry forward to 2016/17 of the underspends in 2015/16 of £80,000 and £15,000 as detailed in the report.**
- (c) Approve the drawdown to the 2016/17 budget of part of SEN New Burdens Grant 2016/17 of £180,000, with the remaining £21,000 to stay in contingency ring-fenced for drawdown at a later date if required as detailed in the report.**
- (d) Approve the drawdown to the 2016/17 budget of part of SEN New Burdens Grant 2016/17 of £180,000, with the remaining £21,000 to stay in contingency ring-fenced for drawdown at a later date if required as detailed in the report.**

74 EDUCATION INFORMATION ITEMS

The Education Briefing comprised three reports:

- Minutes of the Education Budget Sub-Committee meeting held on 14 January 2016
- Contract Activity Update
- Summary of the Select Committee Report on the Role of the Regional Schools Commissioner.

75 UPDATE ON UNDER PERFORMING SCHOOLS

Report ED16018

Members considered a report which provided an update on school performance and the implementation of the local policy of Academy conversion. Since the last meeting of the Committee there had been a short

inspection of Pratts Bottom Primary School which had retained its 'Good' outcome. There had also been a monitoring visit of Grays Farm Primary School. However, the 5 'Requires Improvement' and 2 'Inadequate' schools had not received inspections which were now overdue.

The Committee noted that Burwood School and Burnt Ash Primary School had converted on 1 February 2016 and there were a further six schools that were due to convert before September 2016. If these conversions went ahead 82% of Bromley Primary Phase schools would have converted by the end of the 2015/16 Academic Year (excluding special school).

The Director of Education reported that two more schools had received inspections although the outcome of the inspections could not yet be made public.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

76 ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION (INCLUDING CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING ISSUES AND MISSING CHILDREN)

Report ED16007

The Committee considered a report providing contextual information regarding Elective Home Education and Children Missing in Education including data appertaining to students within the Local Authority who fell within those categories.

It was compulsory for every child of school age to receive a full time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude, and to any special educational needs they might have. Over the past three years, there had been a consistent nationwide increase in the number of families choosing elective home education for all or part of their child's education. In the 2013/14 academic year, 171 pupils had been identified as receiving elective home education in Bromley. This was for a range of reasons including an elective home education ethos, lack of progress at existing provision, bullying or health issues.

The Local Authority had no statutory rights to inspect home education provision but continued to be responsible for the safeguarding of children and young people. Where a parent or carer chose to electively home educate their child, they were required to confirm their intention in writing to their child's Head teacher, who then notified the Local Authority. Once the Local Authority was notified, the Child Missing Education Officer would make initial contact with the family to ensure that they were fully aware of their education responsibilities, that the child had no unmet needs and that there were no safeguarding concerns. The Education Advisor would undertake a follow up visit within 2-10 weeks, and if this visit was deemed satisfactory, further visits would be made at approximate six monthly intervals. Should a family fail to engage with the Education Advisor and there was no evidence of a suitable education being provided to a child, the case was referred back to the

Children Missing Education Officer to instigate a School Attendance Order. Students who wished to return to mainstream education from elective home education were supported via the Fair Access Protocol.

The Chairman noted that *The Times* Newspaper on Saturday 5 March had a whole page dedicated to Home Education and asked that this information be circulated to the Committee.

The Senior Education Welfare Officer provided three anecdotal case studies of elective home education in action.

In response to a question, the Senior Education Welfare Officer reported that it was important to note that once a parent had declared that their child was in elective home education they were considered to have an education base and would not be considered a priority for school places.

The Chairman queried how parents of pupils that were GCSE age dealt with the provision of specialist equipment for subjects such as science. The Senior Education Welfare Officer reported that there was no onus on parents to follow the National Curriculum so this data was not collected by the Local Authority. However some parents did have access to specialist equipment and provision through established educational organisations such as the Open University.

In response to a question surrounding the academic achievements and future success of pupils that had been educated at home, the Senior Education Welfare Officer reported that the Local Authority did not hold the information but there was national anecdotal evidence that a number of home educated children went on to study at university, albeit sometimes a couple of years behind their peer group.

In response to a question surrounding attainment for less advantaged pupils, the Senior Education Welfare Officer reported that Bromley had a good reputation in terms of home education and there was a good, established liaison relationship with a number of families. There were only two cases where the home education was deemed to be inappropriate. A number of families that were home educating in Bromley were happy to let Education Welfare Officers into their home to monitor the education provided.

The Chairman highlighted that one of the main concerns was around safeguarding as it was possible for families to disappear. The Committee noted that the Local Authority had a responsibility for safeguarding young people. The Chairman further noted that there had been a number of cases recently publicised where it appeared that schools were encouraging children into home education and sought assurances that this was not happening in Bromley. The Senior Education Welfare Officer reported that when this type of practice came to the attention of officers in Bromley work was undertaken with schools to provide the support necessary to keep the young people in a formal education setting.

In response to a question concerning whether successful home educators were used as a peer mentor group for those new to home education, the Senior Education Welfare Officer reported that the Local Authority did not signpost to specific individuals. However, once a parent had elected to home educate, a Child Missing Education Officer would undertake a home visit and the parents would be provided with an information pack at this very first visit which would signpost the parents to organisations that could provide the necessary support.

The Chairman thanked the officers for the comprehensive report that had been provided and requested that the report be forwarded to the Children's Board for information. The Chairman further suggested that this could be an interesting topic for the Education Select Committee (due to be established for the 2016/17 municipal year) to be considered.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and forwarded to the Children's Board for information.

77 YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET) AND STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING PARTICIPATION

Report ED16017

The Committee considered a report providing an update on the provision of support for young people who were identified as not participating in education, employment or training (NEET) or being at risk of not participating in education, employment or training, and the strategies in place to increase the participation of young people following the implementation of the Education and Skills Act 2008, under which all young people aged 16 and 17 years would be required to participate in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 years from September 2013 and 18 years from September 2014. The Education and Skills Act 2008 also introduced duties on Local Authorities to promote the effective participation of young people in education, employment and training in their area and to make arrangements to identify young people not participating in education, employment or training.

The participation of young people aged 16 to 18 years in education, employment and training (EET) was recorded on a national database, from which statistical returns were provided to the Department for Education on a monthly basis around the number of young people who were not participating in education, employment or training or whose status was 'not known'.

The total 16-18yr cohort for December 2015 was 10503. The monthly adjusted NEET performance for Bromley for December 2015 was 344 (3.4%) The December 2015 figures for NEET and 'Not Known' showed a significant improvement on December 2014 performance. Statistical neighbour comparisons also indicated that Bromley's December 2015 NEET

performance for academic age 16-18 year olds was better than the average statistical neighbour performance of 3.8% and Bromley's Not Known figure of 6.5% was much better than the average statistical neighbour performance of 9.1%.

Participation levels for young people of academic age 16 and 17 showed an increase in December 2015 compared with December 2014 and a number of activities had contributed to this including tracking process to identify young people's participation in EET, support for young people who were NEET or at risk of NEET to access EET, and action plan to increase 16-18yr old participation rates.

The Committee noted the statistics provided in the appendices to the report. The Chairman queried why Darwin Ward had such a low proportion of 16-17 year olds as meeting the requirements for participation. The Committee heard that there were 9 young people in the 'not participating' cohort and this small number skewed the statistics. Of the 9 young people in the cohort, 3 were NEET and 6 were unknown.

In response to a question, the Youth Support Programme Manager reported that it was slightly too early to determine whether there was more engagement from young people resulting from the expansion of Bromley College. Officers would have a better perspective in a couple of months. The Director of Education clarified that Bromley College had a good range of subjects for young people that were ready to engage however to date there was no sophisticated provision for the more entrenched NEET cohort.

In highlighting the underachievement of white working class boys, the Chairman requested some further information and analysis surrounding an ethnicity breakdown from census data. The Chairman also requested that the report be forwarded to the Children's Board for information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and forwarded to the Children's Board for information.

78 BROMLEY ADULT EDUCATION COLLEGE UPDATE

Report ED16025

The Committee considered a report setting out the criteria to be used for selecting the 2016/17 adult education curriculum in addition to an overview of the forthcoming devolution and area review plans for all post-16 education funding. It was expected that this would influence future funding allocations and the type of provision for which they could be used from the academic year 2017/18 onwards. The report also provided an update on the progress made in relation to the Equality Impact Assessment Plan.

Planning for the 2016/17 curriculum would start in March 2016. The criteria used to determine the range of subjects would need to take into consideration

the recommendations in the Ofsted Inspection report of March 2015, the local priorities of Bromley council, national priorities for publically funded post-16 education providers, and the Skills Funding Agency Funding Rules for 2016/17.

It was envisaged that in 2016/17 all courses would meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Provide progression into employability and/or further study
- Lead to recognised qualifications
- Meet national and local learning and skills priorities
- Contribute to learners' improved mental and/or physical health
- Adhere to the principles of community engagement, particularly with regards to disadvantaged residents and communities in the Borough
- Suitable accommodation and resources, either on BAEC premises or off site
- Generate fee income or add value to the public grant through the Pound Plus principle.

The Head of Bromley Adult Education reported that a separate area review process for adult learning was being undertaken. This would involve either a London-wide approach or a London regional approach and was seen as a very positive development.

The Chairman noted that some students who had been undertaking specialist courses had expressed concerns surrounding the relocation of specialist equipment. The Head of Adult Education reported that in the coming days alternatives for the larger pieces of equipment would be considered. Officers would soon begin liaising with organisations who could be in a position to take the larger pieces of equipment.

Members noted that prior to the reorganisation that had been agreed by Executive, the criteria for the adult education curriculum would have included a bullet point about providing leisure and recreational courses. However, following the reorganisation of the Service, the majority of the curriculum would focus on disadvantaged adults.

In response to a question, the Head of Adult Education reported that part of the support programme for tutors would involve assisting them with finding suitable alternative accommodation and then signposting service users to the provision that was available. The aim was to signpost service users through Bromley Council's website and the Adult Education website.

Members were informed that the curriculum was currently being developed and would be planned by the end of April 2016. It would take longer to identify the provision that was externally available through tutors who no longer work with Bromley Adult Education.

In order for the Committee to have a clear understanding of the shape of Adult Education in the future the Chairman asked that Adult Education be a standing item in future Portfolio Holder updates to Committee meetings and that update emails be circulated to Committee Members.

Action Point 6: that the Committee be provided with email updates concerns the provision of Adult Education and that Adult Education be a standing item in future Portfolio Holder Updates.

RESOLVED: that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to agree the following criteria:

- **Provide progression into employability and/or further study**
- **Lead to recognised qualifications**
- **Meet national and local learning and skills priorities**
- **Contribute to learners' improved mental and/or physical health**
- **Adhere to the principles of community engagement, particularly with regards to disadvantaged residents and communities in the Borough**
- **Suitable accommodation and resources, either on BAEC premises or off site**
- **Generate fee income or add value to the public grant through the Pound Plus principle.**

79 EDUCATION PDS ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered the annual report of the Education PDS Committee for 2014/15. It was noted that the annual report would be provided to the Executive and Resources PDS Committee on 16th March 2016 and to Full Council on 11th April 2015.

RESOLVED that the annual report of the Education PDS Committee be approved.

80 EDUCATION PDS WORK PROGRAMME

Report ED16027

The Chairman reported that in the 2016/17 municipal year there would be a new structure for the Committee. The Committee would become the Education Select Committee with Portfolio Holder decisions being dealt with outside of the formal meetings. Portfolio Holder decisions would be circulated to all Members by email prior to the decision being taken, once circulated decisions could be referred to Committee for further debate if necessary, either at a scheduled meeting of the Education Select Committee or an Executive and Resources PDS Committee meeting. After decisions had been taken by the Portfolio Holder the usual 'call-in' rules would apply.

The Portfolio Holder would continue to provide an update to every meeting.

The Committee would consider topics at each meeting. It was envisaged that at each meeting there would be a Short Item (a brief topic for the Committee to consider within a half an hour time slot) followed by the Substantive Item (the main focus of the meeting) comprising evidence gathering, witness sessions etc., being brought an end with a summary by the Chairman. Following the meeting the Chairman would produce a report outlining the Committee's findings and this would be circulated to all Members by email. The report could then be forwarded to Full Council for further debate if necessary.

For the first meeting in July 2016 it was suggested that the Short Item would be an 'Overview of the Issues Affecting the Department'. Suggestions for topics for future meetings included:

The Changing Education Landscape
Youth Offending Service
Identifying and Tackling School Under Performance
Troubled Families Initiative
Children's Centres
Adult Education Outcomes
Helping Hard to Reach Group
Elective Home Education

Members were asked to forward their suggestions for further topics for consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme and the new structure for the Committee in 2016/17 be noted.

81 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006, AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the items of business listed below as it was likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

**A) AUTHORISATION TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR TOP UP PLACES
FOR SEN**

Report ED16026

The Committee considered a report seeking authorisation for award of a Funding agreement for the delivery of specialist school places for pupils with special educational needs.

RESOLVED: That Executive be recommended to approve the proposals.

The Meeting ended at 8.22 pm

Chairman