

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (LIFELONG LEARNING)

MINUTES of a meeting held on 11th September, 2006 at Victoria Primary School, Penarth.

Present: Councillor C.P. Franks (Chairman); Councillor S.C. Egan (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Mrs. C.V.L. Clay, J. Clifford, Mrs. V.M. Hartrey, F.T. Johnson, Mrs. M. Kelly Owen, C.L. Osborne, Mrs. S.I. Sharpe, B.I. Shaw and Mrs, M.R. Wilkinson.

Co-opted Member: Mr. A. Ballard (Penarth Roman Catholic Church).

Also present: Councillor A.D. Hampton.

283 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE -

These were received from Councillors Mrs. M.E.J. Birch, Ms. R.M. Birch, E. Hacker, A.G. Powell, W.C. Vaughan, E.T. Williams, and Mr. D. Griffiths and Mr. T. Cox (Non-voting observers).

284 MINUTES -

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 6th July, 2006 be signed as an accurate record.

285 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

There were no declarations of interest received.

286 WELCOME -

Mrs. T. Taylor, Headteacher of Victoria Primary School welcomed all present to the school and introduced the Deputy Headteacher, Mrs. Jennings to the Committee. Mrs. Taylor advised that she had been in the post for only six days and handed over to Mrs. Jennings who proceeded to advise the Committee of the attainments of the school in the last year. The school had either matched or exceeded its targets within the last year and was in the top 25% of similar schools within the area.

The school had been inspected by Estyn in 2003 which found that the school was a good school and one of the inspectors had also quoted that if he had young children he would have sent them to Victoria Primary School. There were 14 classes at the school, a nursery, 21 after-school clubs, a school council and the school had its own school magazine. Mrs. Jennings took the opportunity to advise the Committee of the dedication of all the teachers at the school which showed in the good inspection report and attainments it had

achieved. The Headteacher pointed out the condition of the school and the Director advised that condition surveys were used when considering the Investment Strategy for schools as they form the basis of the information provided.

Members thanked both the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher for their presentation.

287 CORPORATE PLAN REVIEW (CMT) -

The report presented the draft version of the revised Corporate Plan for Members comments. The Council had approved its Corporate Plan for 2005-2009 on 8th December, 2004 and as such an interim review of the Plan was being undertaken in order to roll it forward to cover the period 2006-2010. It was further noted that a full reappraisal of the Corporate Plan would be undertaken at the Local Government elections in 2008.

All Members were advised that after consultation with all Members any amendments would be made as appropriate and it was anticipated that the content of the Corporate Plan would be finalised for submission to Cabinet on 20th September, 2006 and for Council on 4th October, 2006. It was further noted that working groups of senior officers and the Corporate Management Team had been closely involved in reviewing the Corporate Plan and that all Council Members had been invited to presentations on the Review which had been held in July and August 2006. Members queried when the commencement of work on Cowbridge Comprehensive School would be taking place and they requested that any information be made available to the public as soon as possible to ensure effective communication was maintained. The Director advised that a report on the matter would be presented to Cabinet shortly.

RECOMMENDED -

T H A T the report in respect of Cowbridge Grammar School to be presented to Cabinet shortly be also referred to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

288 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORTS -

Access and Inclusion

The officer advised that the target in respect of the number of pupils permanently excluded would not be met as a pupil had already been excluded from a primary school.

School Improvement

The Director advised that the performance data was in relation to exams that had been taken prior to the summer exams and further information on the summer examinations would be presented at the 2nd quarter monitoring stage.

Strategic Planning

Members were advised that in view of demographic changes there would be developing issues for the service in respect of vacancies that would be carried at schools. In previous years the percentage had been 4%, it was now likely that the new percentage would be 10% although other authorities were quoting 25% vacancies. The Director advised that plans would be put in place to consider these changes and further reports would be presented in due course.

Lifelong Learning

The Head of Service advised the Committee of potential issues in particular in relation to library standards. The WAG had recently changed the targets which would have an effect in the forthcoming months. The Director also advised Committee that Estyn Inspections would be taking place in March 2007 for adult and community learning and the inspection would include joint partners over a two week period.

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the 1st quarter Performance Monitoring Reports be noted.

289 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL, 2006 TO 31ST JULY, 2006 (DLD) -

The projected outturn for the 2006 Revenue Budget was shown in comparison with the annual budget at Appendix 1 to the report. It was noted that the current forecast was for a balanced budget. It was also noted that an in-year budget adjustment of £20,000 had been actioned between Schools and Access and Inclusion Budgets in respect of the pupil that had been permanently excluded in respect of the pupil requiring provision outside of school at Key Stage 4. The Education Service expenditure was currently projected to be in line with the budget. The Library Service was projected to outturn on target although in Lifelong Learning there was currently an adverse variation of £53,000 on the profiled budget which was due to income generation problems in the training section and Job Shop Extra together with running costs at the Heritage Skills Centre. However, it was noted that the service aimed to return on target by securing new contracts that would generate income. Appendix 2 to the report detailed the financial progress on the capital programme as at 31st July, 2006. In respect of the Early Years Rhoose Primary budget Cabinet had been requested to increase the budget due to the fact that although work on the building had been started in 2005/06 to minimise disruption it had been decided to upgrade the heating to a gas

powered system now rather than at a later date. The cost of this and the completion of outstanding works would total £51,000. As there was currently a budget of £5,000 in the current year's capital programme, Cabinet had been requested to increase the budget by £46,000 and that the increased costs be funded from the Schools Investment Strategy Fund.

Committee was also advised that it was anticipated that the additional accommodation at Rhoose Primary would not be completed on target and that as such a revised budget profile would be reported to Committee shortly. Due to the constraints of the site there were many difficulties in relation to planning matters. The intention was that a full planning application would be submitted within the next month to the Council and that subject to planning approval being obtained work could commence on site in early 2007.

Appendix 3 to the report provided non-financial information on capital schemes with a budget of over £100,000.

Members raised concerns in relation to the lack of budget for the Youth Provision Service and as a result of the above

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the position in relation to the 2006/07 Revenue and Capital Monitoring be noted.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet be requested to consider providing additional resources for the Youth Service.