

Minutes of the meeting of the EDUCATION JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY 21 MARCH AT 4.30 PM

Present: Education Committee

Councillors, Gibbs, Saunders, Seymour, White and Woodcock

Teachers' Representatives on Education Committee

T Winter

Teachers' Professional Associations

S Hopkinson (NAHT), T Netherclift (NAS/UWT) and P Sedgwick(NUT)

Officers: S Wadsworth (Pupil Services Manager) and T Mabbott (Committee Manager)

Apologies: C Burningham (NUT), R Conibear (SHA), Councillor Day, B Kite (NAHT) and Ms W Page

JAC19/00 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee noted the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Education Joint Consultative Committee, held on 16 November 1999.

JAC20/00 BUDGET

The Committee considered a letter sent to schools explaining the budget settlement and received an oral update on the budget situation. It was noted that further work was ongoing to refine the funding formula to ensure that budget allocations to schools continue to be as fair as possible.

JAC21/00 STRUCTURAL REVIEW – AGE OF TRANSFER

The meeting noted that there had been calls from some quarters for some time for a change to the age of transfer, and that these pressures had increased significantly recently. It was further noted that the Education Committee, at its meeting on 29 February 2000, had agreed to establish a framework for a wider structural review of the schools system.

Concern was expressed by representatives of teachers' professional associations that any proposals for change should examine the needs of all children, and not be dictated by particular interest groups. It was noted that the overall aim of the framework was to improve education in Milton Keynes and to provide a lasting

solution to some of the problems caused, amongst other things, by having a later age of transfer than some neighbouring authorities. The cost of any proposed changes would also have to be taken into account and weighed against any potential benefits of a change to the age of transfer.

JAC22/00 'MODERNISING LOCAL GOVERNMENT'

The Committee received an update on the Council's new Democratic Structures. Concern was expressed that the existing consultative mechanisms with Teachers' Professional Associations had not yet been formally included in any new structures. Further concern was expressed that, although Diocesan Authorities and Parent Governor representatives were to be statutorily included in the successor body to Education Committee, there appeared to be no plans to do the same for elected teacher representatives.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Democratic Structures Working Party be asked to consider the role of the Education Joint Advisory Committee and of other existing meetings with teachers' Professional Associations in the new structure.
2. That the Democratic Structures Working Party clarify the role of elected representatives of primary and secondary teachers in the new structures.

JAC23/00 TEACHERS PAY

The Committee noted that the pay rise for teachers for 2000/2001 had been slightly higher than budgeted for, and that this would have some impact upon school budgets.

JAC24/00 EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Committee received an update on the review of Milton Keynes Council's Education Development. It was noted that there was no statutory requirement to revise the Plan completely, but that it would be necessary to review it where appropriate, and in line with the aim of meeting the Council's statutory targets.

JAC25/00 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that its next meeting would be held on Tuesday 20 June 2000 at 5.30 pm.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 5.27 PM