



Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITY LEARNING COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY 4 APRIL 2000 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillor Lloyd (Chair)
Councillors Gibbs (substituting for Councillor Turnbull), Hardwick, E Henderson, Irons, Newcombe, Saunders and Seymour

Officers: V Gwynn (Head of Community and Economic Development), A Flack (Director of Education and Early Years Services), J Moffoot (Head of Democratic Services), R Schmidt (Finance Manager, Learning and Development), P Hymers (Business Development Manager), D Cooper (Economy and Lifelong Learning Manager), A Feeley (Education and Planning Manager) and S Parker (Committee Administrator)

Apologies: Councillors Monk and Turnbull

CO64/00 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chair thanked all current and past Members and officers for their support to the Community Learning Committee.

CO65/00 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Learning Committee held on 25 January 2000 and the special meeting held on 27 March 2000, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

CO66/00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

Councillor Miles - Director, Countec

Councillor Saunders - Director, Countec

The Committee noted that the Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions had granted Councillors Miles and Saunders dispensation to allow them to speak and vote at this meeting on matters relating to Countec.

CO67/00 STRATEGIC PLAN: THE LEARNING VISION

The Committee considered a report which sought approval to the Strategic Plan for the Community Learning Committee for 2000/2001 and future years.

Members noted the information detailing statement of inputs (resources) and outputs, Performance Indicators and the Best Value Review Programme which had been circulated separately to the agenda.

The Committee also noted that details of the Council's Equalities Action Plan would be circulated to all Members in the near future.

Members noted that the Ofsted inspection of the LEA was now scheduled to begin on 18 September 2000, preceded by scrutiny of documentation and a schools' survey. An initial briefing document was distributed and would be supplemented by briefing meetings in due course.

RESOLVED -

That the Strategic Plan 'The Learning Vision', be approved.

CO68/00 REVENUE BUDGET 1999/2000

The Committee considered a report on the latest forecast outturn against budget for the Community Learning Committee for the 1999/2000 financial year.

RESOLVED -

That the latest forecast outturn for the Community Learning Committee and the officers' continuing efforts to take whatever action possible to bring the financial outturn in line with the latest Approved Budget be noted.

CO69/00 CAPITAL MONITORING 1999/2000 AND BEYOND

The Committee considered a report on the latest projections and issues in respect of its Capital Programme.

RESOLVED -

1. That the issues raised in the report in respect of the current year's Capital Programme be noted.
2. That the potential effect on the future of the Capital Programme of the recent consideration by the English Partnerships Board in respect of land values be noted.

CO70/00 AUDIT REPORTS

The Committee considered a report on issues arising from Internal Audit reports on services within the remit of the Community Learning Committee since the last report.

RESOLVED -

That the reports be noted.

CO71/00 EDUCATION BUSINESS LINKS

The Committee considered a report which sought endorsement of the DfEE Consultation Paper on developing a new structure to provide an effective delivery mechanism for Education Business Links.

The Committee noted that the Education Business Partnership for Milton Keynes and North Bucks, Countec, was considering seeking charitable status.

RESOLVED -

1. That the principles of the Government Consultation Paper on developing a new structure to provide an effective delivery mechanism for Education Business Links be supported.
2. That the approach adopted by Countec be supported, subject to approval of the details by Party Spokespersons.

CO72/00 MEMBERSHIP OF MILTON KEYNES COLLEGE GOVERNING BODY

The Committee considered an update report on changes in the rules on representation on Further Education College Governing Bodies and sought approval to Council representation on the Milton Keynes College Governing Body for the next 3 years.

RESOLVED -

That Councillor Norman Miles and the Head of Community and Economic Development be nominated as Council representatives on the Milton Keynes College Governing Body.

CO73/00 SUMMARY UPDATE AND REVIEW 2000/01 OF THE MILTON KEYNES COMMUNITY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PLAN 1998 - 2001

The Committee welcomed the report which presented a Summary Review and Update Plan 2000/01 of the Milton Keynes Community Children and Young People's Services Plan 1998 - 2001.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Summary Update and Review Plan 2000/01 of the Milton Keynes Community Children and Young People's Services Plan 1998 - 2001 be approved.
2. That note be taken that pending guidance from the Department of Health and discussions with partners and young people, no Children and Young People's Services Plan would be issued in 2000/01.
3. That officers be thanked for their work on the Plan.

CO74/00 DEVELOPING MORE COHERENT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

The Committee considered a report on the Council's Officer Working Group on services for people with learning disabilities/difficulties and invited Members to comment on issues they would like taken into account in it.

RESOLVED -

1. That the work of the Officer Group on services for people with learning disabilities/difficulties be noted.
2. That Members be invited to make comment to the officers on other issues that might be taken into account by the Officer Working Group.
3. That officers report back on the findings of the Officer Group to the appropriate meeting in the new political management structure.

CO75/00 THE COUNCIL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE UNIVERSITY FOR INDUSTRY

The Committee considered a report on the latest information about the Government's initiative to increase Lifelong Learning Activity through the University for Industry and invited Members to endorse the Council's participation in the initiative locally.

RESOLVED -

1. That the background to the University for Industry and the work undertaken so far be noted.
2. That the involvement of the Council in the initiative locally be endorsed in principle.

CO76/00 FOSTER CARE PAYMENTS AND ALLOWANCES FOR ACCOMMODATED CHILDREN

The Committee considered a recommendation from the Children's and Youth Committee meeting 14 March 2000 that the revised rate for foster care payments be adopted with effect from 2 April 2000.

RESOLVED -

That the revised rate for foster care payments be adopted with effect from 2 April 2000.

CO77/00 EDUCATION BUDGET WORKING GROUP - 22 FEBRUARY 2000

The Committee received the Minutes of the Education Budget Working Group held on 22 February 2000.

CO78/00 REDWAY SCHOOL, WHALLEY DRIVE, BLETCHLEY

The Committee noted proposals for the former site of Redway School, Whalley Drive, Bletchley following a recommendation from the Council's insurers that the empty buildings should be demolished because of further and extensive damage caused by systematic vandalism.

The Committee also noted that discussions were still taking place on the future of the site and requested that a formal report with appropriate supporting information should be brought to Members.

RESOLVED -

That a full report on the issues be brought to the first meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Board, to give consideration to the principles and practices by which the Council looks after buildings which are empty.

CO79/00 LEON SCHOOL

The Committee considered a report on the serious premises issues at Leon School and the initial urgent expenditure necessary to re-open the site.

RESOLVED -

1. That the essential expenditure for asbestos removal at Leon School, be approved.
2. That the likelihood of further expenditure arising to ensure continued education, be noted.
3. That the short-term resolution of this issue should take account of longer term issues wherever possible.
4. That the ability to now use the leisure facility safely, maintaining community provision, be noted.

CO80/00 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS REPRESENTATIVES

RESOLVED -

That public and press representatives be excluded from the meeting by virtue of Paragraph 9 (Contracts) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the Committee may consider the following matter:

Wavendon Gate Combined School Phase 2 - Approval to Negotiate with Contractor

CO81/00 WAVENDON GATE COMBINED SCHOOL PHASE 2 - APPROVAL TO NEGOTIATE WITH CONTRACTOR

The Committee considered a report which requested Members to agree that Architecture MK negotiate with the main contractor and sub-contractors of Wavendon Gate Combined School Phase 1 to

build Wavendon Gate Combined School Phase 2 rather than seek alternative tenders.

RESOLVED -

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow Architecture MK to negotiate with the main contractor and sub-contractors of Wavendon Gate Combined School Phase 1 for the construction of Wavendon Gate Combined School Phase 2, subject to no adverse advice from the Head of Legal and Property Services.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.17 PM