



Minutes

Name of meeting	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 2012 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs George Cameron (Chairman), Paul Fuller, John Howe, David Stewart, Gary Taylor
Co-opted Members (voting)	David Miller, Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representatives)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Dawn Cousins, David Pugh
Youth Council	Atlanta Hersey, Lawrie Mason, Alec Webb
Officers Present	Ian Anderson, Steve Beynon, Chris Mathews, Ali Matthews, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Emily Fletcher, Urszula Topp (Diocesan Representatives)

36. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on [6 February 2012](#) be confirmed.

37. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Dave Stewart declared a personal interest in Minutes 39, 40, 41 and 42 as a member of his family was employed at Carisbrooke College, another at Sandown Bay Primary and another at Sandown College.

Councillor Gary Taylor declared a personal interest in Minutes 39, 40, 41 and 42 as he was a Local Authority Governor on Ryde Academy and was employed at Ryde School.

Councillor Paul Fuller declared a personal interest in Minutes 39, 40, 41 and 42 as he had children at Cowes Enterprise College, was an authority governor at Northwood Primary School and was on the management committee of Cowes Youth Centre.

Councillor John Howe declared a personal interest in Minutes 39, 40, 41 and 42 as he was a Governor of Weston Community School, St Saviours School, West Wight Nursery and a Committee Member of West Wight Youth Club and West Wight Sports Centre.

Mrs Sara Sheath declared a personal interest in Minutes 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 as she was a member of the Schools Forum, a Local Authority Governor at Christ the King and Shanklin C of E Primary School and had children at Christ the King and Shanklin C of E Primary School.

Councillor George Cameron declared a personal interest in Minutes 39, 40, 41 and 42 as he was on the board of the Freshwater Early Years Service and the management committee of West Wight Youth Centre.

38. **Public Question Time (1)**

The Chairman indicated that he was aware of one written question in relation to the item on the music centre. It was his intention to deal with any public questions on this matter later in the meeting prior to the panel discussing the report.

39. **Provision of Secondary Education**

The Chairman reminded members that when the Island's secondary schools became academies a performance management framework was developed. This was to enable them to be held to account on attainment and the wellbeing of students on their role. This information was to be reported to the panel on a twice yearly basis. Three establishments had been invited to give presentations to this meeting and the other three would be attending the 9 May 2012 meeting.

(a) **Cowes Enterprise College**

Jonathan Russell (Principal), Rachael Fidler (Chair of The Cowes Pathfinder Trust) and Alan Wells (Chair of the Interim Governing Body) gave a [powerpoint presentation](#) on the vision, current position and future progression for the College. In addition details of performance in accordance with the framework were circulated.

The college representatives highlighted a range of background information including :-

- Students attended the college for an additional four and a half days extra per year.
- The number of exclusions in the first term reflected the change in culture and the creation of a positive learning environment.
- Links were being developed with local and national companies together with further education establishments.
- The delivery of the core curriculum together with the flexible personalised learning for each student.
- Working arrangements with local primary schools.

The panel then sought clarification on various issues including :-

- Support provided for looked after children.
- Measuring the outcomes of those students gaining employment.
- The involvement of local businesses in mentoring.
- The range of extra curriculum activities including community engagement.
- Three year plan for raising standards.

(b) Island Innovation Trust (IIT)

Mark Price (Chairman of IIT), Judith Richardson (Chief Executive of the Federation), Nathan Thomas (Headteacher, Medina College), Shaheen Khan-Jones (Headteacher, Carisbrooke College), Karen Begley (Director of Progression, VI Form Campus) gave a [powerpoint presentation](#) on the background to the trust, vision for the federation of the two colleges, aspirations, achievements and joint working. The performance for each establishment was also included in this and these details were also circulated as part of the performance framework arrangements.

The panel was informed of joint working arrangements with primary schools. This included catering, shared posts and extended school activities.

(i) Medina College

With specific reference to Medina College the following matters were highlighted :-

- Work on improving standards was a ten year plan
- Attendance was disappointing but improvements in the year.
- Parental engagement was the key.
- Large number of fixed term exclusions – decreasing as taking intervention work.

(ii) Carisbrooke College

With specific reference to Carisbrooke College the following matters were highlighted :-

- Looking for sustained improvement rather than a quick fix.
- Persistent absence high but looking at bringing down to 6% in July 2012.
- Fixed term absence was high as consequence of changes. The number of pupils involved was decreasing.
- Staff absence high due to small number of staff with long term conditions.

(iii) Island Innovation VI Form Campus

With regard to the VI form campus at Nodehill the following matters highlighted :-

- Performance was in line with students predictions.
- Attendance had improved.
- Support given to students in applying to university.

The panel then sought clarification on various issues including :-

- Arrangements for extending school activities in the West Wight would be known in three weeks time. Arrangements were also being made to cover sporting activities at Ventnor.
- Although there was a ten year plan there was a need to see results improving over the next two years.
- There was good engagement with parents and the wider community.
- Clear policy on behaviour and implemented consistently at all sites.
- Outline given of the partners that the trust was working with and these also assisted with employment experience and opportunities.
- Arrangements on dealing with looked after children.

In conclusion the panel welcomed the opportunity provided by the attendance of the new providers to discuss their visions and aspirations and looked forward to reviewing performance and attainment in the future.

RESOLVED:

THAT the representatives from Cowes Enterprise College and Island Innovation Trust be thanked for their attendance and presentations.

40. Public Question Time (2)

A written question was received from Ms Jackie Hawkins, an Island resident, in relation to the options contained in the report on the future of the music service. The chairman of the panel provided a response. ([PQ 07/12](#))

Kirsten Zentifer, an Island resident, asked an oral question on the need to undertake a comprehensive consultation exercise involving all interested parties. Neil Courtney, an Island resident, asked an oral question on the budget and the need to minimise the risk of permanently losing the music service. David Winstone, an Island resident, asked that the decision should be

delayed. Louis Henry, asked about the limited number of options and the role of music in improving educational standards.

The chairman indicated that the panel was not a decision making body. It could however make recommendations to the relevant cabinet member. The panel would take into account the views expressed when discussing the item.

41. **Development of Music Hubs and Implications for the Isle of Wight Music Service**

(Mr David Miller, co-opted member, declared a personal interest as he had children at Gurnard Primary School and Cowes Enterprise College, his wife was a governor at Gurnard Primary School, he was a member of Cowes Community Partnership and his daughter received music lessons)

The cabinet member for children's services and education advised of national changes to the administration of the music education grant. There would be a reduction in funding from 1 September 2012. A national review of music education had brought about a bidding process for grant funding and this would be based on the creation of music hubs.

Although a hub would continue the core work of the current Isle of Wight Music Service there would be a reduction of funding from the 2011/12 figure of £360k to £324k in 2012/13 then to £259k in 2013/14. There was an operating loss of £140k in 2011/12 due to a decline on pupil tuition numbers and less schools participating. Consideration therefore had to be given to changes in the delivery of this service which would be implemented from 1 September 2012. The panel was advised that there was no legal duty on the council to provide a music service.

The cabinet member identified three options and recommended that of these the way forward would be to continue with a bid for the creation of a hub. This would also involve the reduction in the number of direct employees and move to a commissioning model. There would be a consultation exercise before a final decision was taken.

The panel discussed the need for the consultation exercise to as comprehensive as possible and include all known users and interested parties. It was recognised that any future service would have to be delivered within the available funding.

The wider benefits for students arising from the current music service were highlighted by the representatives from the youth council. Music had the ability of breaking down barriers and provided a common interest across all age groups. Success in music examinations could also provide students with additional tariff points to assist in gaining entry to further education institutions.

It was felt that the number of large music events held on the Island could provide funding opportunities to assist in the costs of operating the future music service.

The panel formulated a recommendation which would not restrict the consultation process to a particular option as had been requested in the report. Members also indicated a wish to consider the outcome of the consultations before the cabinet took a decision. It was however recognised that any future service would have to operate within the confines of the available national funding. The Chief Executive advised that it would be necessary to advise the current staff involved in the delivery of the music service that their positions were at risk.

RESOLVED:

- a) THAT the leader makes representations to the government on the implications of the reduced level of music education grant for the Isle of Wight.
- b) THAT the cabinet member for children's services and education be recommended to take a delegated decision on undertaking a comprehensive formal consultation exercise that sets out a full range of options for the future direction of the music service taking into account the financial resources that would be available.
- c) THAT the cabinet member for children's services and education be supported in submitting a bid to the Arts Council to secure a music hub on the Island.
- d) THAT the scrutiny panel, at its meeting on 11 July 2012 discuss the outcomes of the consultation exercise and the options that will be considered by the cabinet on 31 July 2012.

42. **Admissions First Preference**

The Chief Executive gave a [powerpoint presentation](#) on parental preferences for school admissions for the 2012/13 academic year. [A paper indicating the figures for each school was also circulated](#). It was indicated that whilst nine primary schools were oversubscribed there was a total of 362 surplus places across the Island. This gave the highest percentage in the country. With regard to secondary admissions 100% of parents received their first preference and no school was oversubscribed.

A brief outline was given on the recent consultation exercise carried out with regard to admissions. The policies for 2013 would be finalised and published on the council's web site.

Members noted the role of the council in co-ordinating admission arrangements across the island. They noted that schools would be reviewing their admission capacity following the recent re-organisation.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

43. **Quarterly Performance Management Report – Quarter 3 2011/12**

Due to the time members were advised that if there were any particular queries in relation to the performance reports they should raise these outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

THAT any performance management queries be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Officer.

44. **Forward Plan and Consultations**

As the results of discussions earlier in the meeting an item would be included in the forward plan in relation to consultations on the future of the music service.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

45. **Progress Report on Recommendations**

An update was given on the progress with the actions and recommendations arising from previous meetings.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

CHAIRMAN