



# Notes of evidence

Name of meeting	<b>POLICY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOL RESULTS</b>
Date and time	<b>WEDNESDAY, 25 JUNE 2008 AT 6.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Commission	Cllrs George Cameron (Commissioner), John Effemey, Gill Kennett, Muriel Miller, David Whittaker
Cabinet	Cllr Alan Wells
Officers Present	Paul Thistlewood, Chris Vieler-Porter
Apologies	Cllr Roger Mazillius

4. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on [14 May 2008](#) were agreed.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

6. **Framework for Learning and Achievement**

The Policy Commission considered the draft Framework for Learning and Achievement which had been produced by the Director of Children's Services following consultation with relevant key partners and officers. The document was intended to provide a clear and transparent framework for achieving improved outcomes for children on the Island. This built upon the School Improvement Strategy agreed in November 2006.

The draft document was to be the subject of further discussions with Head Teacher representatives the following week. The final version would be submitted to the Cabinet on 9 September 2008 for adoption.

Members raised some concerns as to the length of the document and that some elements were repeated. Mr Vieler-Porter accepted this but indicated that it was necessary to have total clarity about the respective roles and responsibilities of all partners.

It was suggested by the Commission that the Directorate's structure chart should be an attachment to the main document. This was to

assist in identifying the line management for the posts referred to in the framework.

The effectiveness of School Improvement Partners (SIPs) was considered to be an important element of challenging schools on their performance. This had to be undertaken in conjunction with the Governing Body. It was noted that the Council had found that the quality of work by SIPs varied greatly and in some instances contracts had not been renewed.

Responsibilities and expectations placed upon school governors had increased in recent years. It was proposed that the Council would increase its capacity to work with Governing Bodies to strengthen their self evaluation capabilities. In addition to the training of school governors a similar exercise would be undertaken with clerks to Governing Bodies.

The Council's Learning and Achievement Division would monitor, challenge, intervene and support schools as required in the light of individual circumstances. Mr Vieler-Porter indicated that there were sufficient resources to undertake these duties if applied appropriately. The key to effective action was early knowledge from a school that it was aware of a difficulty.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the principles contained in the draft Framework for Learning and Achievement be accepted and the consultation process leading to submission of the final document to the Cabinet on 9 September 2008 be noted.