

**CABINET MEMBER - CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE  
ON TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor P.Dowd

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors P Dowd, M Fearn and D Jones  
Mr.R.Gregson – Sefton Governors Forum

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Hands

**112. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Platt.

**113. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**114. MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

**115. APPOINTMENT OF LA REPRESENTATIVES TO GOVERNING BODIES OF MAINTAINED SCHOOLS**

Further to Minute No. 109 of the meeting held on 19 January 2010, the Cabinet Member considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children, Schools and Families regarding vacancies on the governing bodies of Community and Voluntary Aided schools.

RESOLVED:

That the undermentioned persons be appointed to serve on the Governing Bodies of the schools indicated for a period of four years:-

School	Governor(s)
AINSDALE WARD Shoreside Primary, Ainsdale	Mr. H. Preece
FORD WARD South Sefton Sixth Form College Litherland	Mr.I .Scott

**116. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF ST GEORGE OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL : OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION**

Further to Minute No. 79 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) of the 16 March 2010, the Cabinet Member considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children, Schools and Families updating on the outcome of the consultation on the proposal to close St George of England High School with effect from 31 August 2013.

The Strategic Director, Children, Schools and Families explained that four responses, to the consultation were received. He reported that the proposal was part of a wider reorganisation of secondary education in Sefton, which would coincide with the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

It was further reported that pupil numbers in South Sefton had been falling for a number of years and projections show that that trend was likely to continue. It was highlighted that, more specifically, pupil numbers at St George of England High School had fallen by 300 pupils since 2003 with 411 pupils currently on the roll and 354 empty places.

The Cabinet Member agreed that the decision to close a school wasn't one that was taken lightly. However it was highlighted that the process had been extremely thorough, well planned, completely fair and extensive and shouldn't disrupt the Children.

Prior to the consideration of the report, The Committee considered the petition received and signed by 335 residents of the Borough, endorsed by Councillor Maher and outlined its purpose in the following terms:

'We as a community object to the closure of St Georges of England Specialist Engineering College, for the following reasons;

1. Disruption to education
2. Emotional impact on the children
3. School not in a central local for Bootle
4. Loss to the local businesses
5. The effects on homeowners

A variety of questions in relation to the petition and the proposals set out within the report were asked and responded to by the Strategic Director – Children, Schools and Families.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the petition be noted;
- (2) the representations arising from the consultation process as detailed within the report be noted;
- (3) the Strategic Director of Children's Services be authorised to begin the statutory process for the proposal for the closure of St George of England High School.

**117. SEFTON PRIMARY SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS SCHEME 2011/12**

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Business and Support Services Director – Children, Schools and Families that sought approval for the determined admission arrangements in relation to the Primary Schools Admissions Scheme for 2011/12.

RESOLVED:

That the determined scheme under the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 (as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006), detailed within the report, be approved.

**118. SEFTON SECONDARY SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS SCHEME  
2011/12**

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Business and Support Services Director – Children, Schools and Families that sought approval for the determined admission arrangements in relation to the Secondary Schools Admissions Scheme for 2011/12.

RESOLVED:

That the determined scheme under the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 (as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006), detailed within the report, be approved.

**119. STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
(SACRE) ANNUAL REPORT**

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children, Schools and Families providing information on the activities and actions taken by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) as part of its statutory duties with Sefton Council.

RESOLVED:

That the report providing information on the activities and actions taken by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) be noted.

## **120. PARTICIPATION OF PARENTS**

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children, Schools and Families seeking approval for the Parents' Participation Plan' to support the participation of parents and carers.

RESOLVED:

That the Parents' Participation Plan' to support the participation of parents and carers be approved.

## **121. YOUTH OPPORTUNITY FUND**

Further to Minute No. 108 of 19 January 2010, the Cabinet Member considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children, Schools and Families that advised of the proposed spend of the first round of Youth Opportunities Fund bids in 2010/11.

RESOLVED:

That the expenditure of £16,462.50 funded by the Youth Opportunities Fund, as detailed within the report, be approved.

## **122. SEFTON YOUTH SERVICE**

Further to Minute No. 71 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) of the 9 February 2010, the Cabinet Member considered a recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services)

"That the Cabinet Member – Children's Services be requested to examine the staffing arrangements across the Youth Service specifically looking at "Worker in Charge" staff vacancies for the Borough with a view to the closure of the Youth Centres being avoided"

RESOLVED:

That the request of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) to examine the staffing arrangements across the Youth Service specifically looking at "Worker in Charge" staff vacancies for the Borough with a view to the closure of the Youth Centres being avoided be noted.

**123. REVENUE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE MONITORING TO 31  
DECEMBER 2009**

Further to Minute No. 80 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) of 16 March 2010, the Cabinet Member considered the report of the Strategic Director, Children, Schools and Families which detailed the forecast position, based on information as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009, in relation to the Children, Schools and Families Portfolio 2009/10 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme.

Annex A to the report detailed the Children, Schools and Families Portfolio Revenue Budget that was monitored and reported on the risk-assessed basis; whilst Annex B detailed the Portfolio schemes within the Capital Programme 2009/10 - 2012/13.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress on the Children's Services Portfolio's revenue budgets that are subject to risk-based monitoring be noted;
- (2) the position regarding the Children's' Services Department's required savings for the year be noted; and
- (3) the progress made on the schemes within the portfolio's element of the Council's Capital Programme be noted.