
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (EDUCATION) BUSINESS PANEL

Date: MONDAY, 11 JULY 2005 at 7 p.m.

**Committee Room 3
Civic Suite
Lewisham Town Hall
London SE6 4RU**

Enquiries to: Mike Brown

Telephone: 020-8-314-8824 (direct line)

MEMBERS

Councillor Smith	(L)	Chair & Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Anderson	(C)	Vice Chair & Vice-Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Minority Group Representative
Councillor Adefiranye	(L)	Chair of Children & Young People Select Committee
Councillor Fitzsimmons	(L)	Chair of Adult Care & Health Select Committee
Councillor Handley	(L)	Chair of Quality Public Services Select Committee
Councillor Long	(L)	Majority Party Representative
Councillor Morris	(LD)	Minority Group Representative
Councillor Morrison	(L)	Chair of Social Inclusion Select Committee
Councillor Muldoon	(L)	Chair of Environment Select Committee
Councillor Stockbridge	(L)	Chair of Public Accounts Select Committee

Non-elected Voting Members

Monsignor Rothern

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark Commission for Schools
and Colleges

Rev'd Gatcliffe

Church of England Southwark Diocesan Board of Education

Parent Governors Reps.

Secondary

Ms P Howell

Special

Vacant

Primary

Vacant

Members are summoned to attend this meeting

Barry Quirk
Chief Executive
Lewisham Town Hall
Calford
London SE6 4RU
Date: 30 June 2005



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The public are welcome to attend our committee meetings, however, occasionally, committees may have to consider some business in private. Copies of reports can be made available in additional formats on request.

ORDER OF BUSINESS - PART 1 AGENDA

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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (EDUCATION) BUSINESS PANEL		
Report Title	MINUTES	
Key Decision		Item No. 1
Ward		
Contributors	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
Class	Part 1	Date: 11 JULY 2005

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 20 June 2005, be confirmed and signed (copy attached).

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (EDUCATION) BUSINESS PANEL		
Report Title	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS	
Key Decision		Item No. 2
Ward		
Contributors	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
Class	Part 1	Date: 11 JULY 2005

Members are asked to make any declarations of personal interests or other interests they may have in relation to items on this agenda (if any). Members are reminded to make any declaration at any stage throughout the meeting if it then becomes apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue is considered.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (EDUCATION) BUSINESS PANEL, which was open to the press and public, held on MONDAY, 20 JUNE 2005 at LEWISHAM TOWN HALL, CATFORD, SE6 4RU at 7 p.m.

Present

Councillor Smith (Chair); Councillor Anderson (Vice-Chair); Councillors Adefiranye, Fitzsimmons, Handley, Morris, Morrison, Muldoon and Stockbridge.

Monsignor Rotheron and Ms P Howell.

Under Standing Orders: Councillor Fletcher

Minute No.	Action
1	MINUTES (page RESOLVED that, subject to the alteration to reflect that Councillors Fitzsimmons and Morrison were in attendance, the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 31 May 2005 were confirmed and signed.
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (page None was declared.
3	DECISIONS MADE BY THE MAYOR AND CABINET ON 8 JUNE 2005 (page 1. LEA Making of Instruments by Order VA School RESOLVED that the decisions of the Mayor and Cabinet be noted. 2. School Term and Holiday Dates 2006/07 Academic Year RESOLVED that the decisions of the Mayor and Cabinet be noted.

3. Building Schools for the Future

Members discussed at some length issues to do with decisions leading to the building of the new school.

It was made known that opposition groups were not in agreement with the summary of recommendations included in the report. In particular, it was thought that the site for the new school was too small in the long term and would cause additional traffic congestion in the immediate area. There was concern that alternative sites proposed had been rejected without sufficient reason being given and the alternative site in Evelyn Street was highlighted as one considered more suitable in the long run. The site of the former Fleming House Nursing Home was also mentioned as an alternative. (Clarification was also sought on manifesto pledges to build new school places by 2006 i.e. when this manifesto pledge had first been made).

Concern was also expressed that the Mayor would be closing the Ladywell pool before the opening of the Downham Lifestyles Leisure Centre. The Executive Director for Children & Young People said that the Mayor had decided on 8 June not to take the option of closing the pool early in 2007. He had confirmed his decision to close Ladywell after the summer holidays to allow the new school to open on the site in September 2009. Downham Lifestyles Leisure Centre is still scheduled to be open by the end of 2006.

It was noted that there had been considerable public lobbying in respect of the use of alternative sites for the permanent new school instead of the Ladywell Leisure Centre site.

Some Members were concerned that the proposed site for the new school was not best placed geographically for meeting the demand for school places in the north west of the borough where it is highest. The Executive Director for Children and Young people said that there was a demand for school places across the north of the borough but confirmed that demand is highest in the north east where

fewer children get their preferred schools and more leave the borough for their secondary education. Furthermore the Ladywell site was accessible to families across the north of the borough.

A member of the public who is also a member of the New School's Campaign asked if the fact that the Ennersdale site could no longer be used to provide temporary school facilities might change the decision to use the Ladywell Leisure Centre as the site for the permanent new school. Members asked if the further consultation planned in respect of the choice of temporary site (section 3.3.6) could be amended to include further consultation on the use of Ladywell Leisure Centre as the permanent site. The Executive Director for Children and Young People said that there had already been consultation on the use of the Ladywell Leisure Centre for the new school. The Mayor had asked on 8 June for some focused work to be done with some parents to get their views on temporary arrangements pending the opening of the new school in 2009. That exercise is small scale and will be reported to Mayor and Cabinet on 20 July.

In general, Members expressed concern about the process leading to decisions in respect of the new school, in particular on the question of providing timely information to Council on the issues arising and on the accuracy of the information provided in making decisions. The concerns raised also included the issue of how much flexibility the Council had thought was available in arrangements to secure Building Schools for the future funding.

Members were in agreement that the need to provide new school provision in the borough was not in question and that any undue delay in provision would be to the detriment of Lewisham's children. However, a key concern emerged on the timing of the decision to use the Ladywell Leisure Centre as the preferred permanent site.

Some discussion took place about the content of the review to be carried out by the recently proposed Scrutiny Sub Committee, looking at the decision making process in relation to the establishment of a new secondary school.

It was questioned whether a task group of officers could be set up to provide further information on Evelyn Street as an alternative site and if the scrutiny review could include information on arrangements in neighbouring boroughs such as Greenwich and Southwark.

The Chair made it clear that whilst the Overview & Scrutiny Committee have formally agreed to setting up a sub-committee, it has still to agree its formal membership. It was noted that an Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting would be arranged in the near future to approve appointments. It was thought that the Scrutiny Sub Committee would be enabled to look widely at the issues arising, including the advice received on the use of alternative sites such as Evelyn Street.

In conclusion it was

RESOLVED that the decision made by the Mayor on 8 June 2005 in relation to the new school not be called in but the Panel's views be made known to the Mayor and Cabinet particularly about the timing of the decision in relation to the permanent site for the school.

4 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME (page

RESOLVED that the items to be included on the Select Committees work programme be noted and agreed.

Chair

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (EDUCATION) BUSINESS PANEL			
Report Title	DECISIONS MADE BY THE MAYOR AND CABINET ON 29 JUNE 2005		
Key Decision	YES		Item No. 3
Ward			
Contributors	CHIEF EXECUTIVE/HEAD OF COMMITTEE BUSINESS		
Class	Part 1	Date: 20 JUNE 2005	

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform the Panel of the decision of the Mayor and Cabinet on 29 June 2005 on the Panel's referral in respect of the decisions made by the Mayor and Cabinet in respect of Building Schools for the Future.

2. Recommendation

To note the report.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 20 June 2005 the Panel raised questions about the provision of timely information to the Council on the issues arising and on the accuracy of the information provided in making decisions. In light of this, members had concerns in relation to the timing of the decision to use the Ladywell Leisure Centre as the preferred permanent site for the new school. At that time the Panel resolved not to call in the decision made by the Mayor and Cabinet in relation to the report entitled Building Schools for the Future. However, the Panel wished to make their views known to the Mayor and Cabinet that they were concerned about the timing of the decision in relation to the permanent site for the school.
- 3.2 The Mayor and Cabinet on 29 June 2005 were informed of the Panel's views and noted that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would be asked that evening to appoint members to an ad-hoc select committee to review the decision making process in relation to the establishment of a new secondary school.