

present. However, he outlined the role which had been identified for a Head of Communities within his Directorate.

Members acknowledged the skillset and commitment of the Board of Governors to Finaghy Primary School and the added value given by volunteers who contributed to the community campus' success. A Member said that the EA should again revisit the length of office of serving Governors. He considered that two terms was an unrealistic timeframe when Governors were committed and brought significant value to a school. Another Member suggested that, in light of challenges relating to some Boards of Governors, the length of term of office for a Governor remained as two terms with the possibility of extension in cases where Governors made significant contributions to schools. Mr Collings added that some mechanism could perhaps be developed to quality assure Governors on the basis of outcomes of children and young people.

Consideration was given to the school's request as set out in the paper. It was agreed that Mr Collings would investigate the request and report back to the Committee.

Action: *Mr Collings to investigate the school's request and report back to the Committee.*

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the requirement to declare interests where appropriate during the course of the meeting.

5. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2016

The minutes* (CUOS/10/16/3) of the meeting held on 8 March 2016 were agreed on the proposal of Ms O'Connor and seconded by Mrs Lappin.

6. MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

REPORT ON LOSSES (6)

The Committee noted the overall Statement of Losses for the EA for 2015/16 which had been presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee in May 2016.

Losses incurred in 2015/16 for non-payment of rent by community bodies and legal cases which were still pending were noted. A Member sought clarification on the pending legal cases. This information would be provided to Members. It was also agreed that a report on claims and legal expenses would be presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for information on a regular basis.

Actions: *Clarification to be provided to Members on the 2015/16 pending legal cases; and a report to be presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on a regular basis on claims and legal expenses.*

7. COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES : GUIDANCE

The Committee had considered the DE booklet entitled 'Community Use of School Premises : A Guidance Toolkit for Schools' at its meeting on 8 March 2016 and had tasked officers to draw up a document which would be more user friendly for schools and which could be used alongside the DE booklet.

The draft document* (CUOS/10/16/5) setting out guidelines for schools was considered. A Member referred to the types of agreement to be entered into by schools and, in particular, to the long term usage of a school's premises by a community group. Mr Gilbert said that all tenancy agreements would be actioned by EA officials.

A Member queried if a database existed on the current usage of school facilities by community groups. It was noted that the Strategic Planning process would take account of the EA's ambitions with regard to community usage of schools. At the present time, all such information on community usage was held at individual school level.

It was agreed that the guidelines document would be developed as follows:

- to further encourage Boards of Governors to engage in community use of facilities;
- to encourage Boards of Governors to be mindful of the particular skillsets of Governors when seeking to attract individuals to serve, as well as the use of co-opted Members, in order to assist in promoting community use of schools;
- to set out that Boards of Governors would not be liable for any proceedings which might arise as a result of community usage of school premises;
- the contact details of the officer and section, in due course, to which any queries from schools should be directed; and
- examples of schools which were successfully engaging in community use of schools, both urban and rural.

It was further agreed that officers should seek to ascertain if EATV could provide a documentary on schools which were successfully engaging in community use of premises.

Actions: *Develop guidelines document in line with Members' comments and bring document back to the Committee at its next meeting; and liaise with EATV to ascertain if a documentary could be provided on schools successfully engaging in community use of premises.*

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date was arranged for 2 February 2016 at 2.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm.

Chair

Date