

**EDUCATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Education Committee held in Academy Street, Belfast on 15 December 2016 at 11.30 am

PRESENT: Rev R Herron (Chairperson)

Rev A Adams	Sir Gerry Loughran
Mr D Cargo	Dr A McMorran
Mr J Craig	Dr I McMorris
Mrs M Culbert	Ms S O'Connor
Dr M Dynan	Mr R Pollock
Sr C Hegarty	Miss R Rainey

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J Collings, Mr R Gilbert, Mr M McConkey and Ms L McCall.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ms Á Andrews and Fr T Bartlett.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2016

The minutes* (E/12/16/3) of the meeting held on 10 November 2016 were agreed on the proposal of Dr Dynan and seconded by Rev Adams.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (7.1 and 7.2)

The Chair advised that the ongoing development of the School Development Service would be reviewed by the Committee in the New Year.

4.2 DRAFT STRATEGIC AREA PLAN 2017-20

Mr Collings said that all stakeholders had been invited to the public consultation events held across the Region on the draft Strategic Area Plan. He confirmed that the political parties had been informed of the events and he outlined the number of Elected Members who had engaged in this consultation process.

(Ms O'Connor entered the meeting at 11.34 am.)

5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS - RETIREMENT OF MR R GILBERT

The Chair paid tribute to Mr Gilbert for his contributions to the Education sector over the last 37 years and for his support and guidance to the Education Committee. Rev Adams paid tribute to

Mr Gilbert for his work with the former north eastern and south eastern education and library boards over a period of 35 years. She wished Mr Gilbert every best wish for a long and healthy retirement.

6. AREA PLANNING – DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

6.1 Special Units

DP 491 Castle Gardens Primary School, DP 492 Holy Evangelists Primary School, DP 493 Good Shepherd Primary School, DP 494 Forthill Integrated College, and DP 495 Priory Integrated College

Mr Gilbert presented the papers* (E/12/16/6.1) in respect of regularising special units attached to the five mainstream schools detailed above. In response to Members, Mr Gilbert confirmed that no further special units required regularisation.

On the proposal of Mrs Culbert, seconded by Sr Hegarty, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Board should commence the statutory consultation process on these proposals.

6.2 DP 476 St MacNissius' Primary School

To make a significant change in the character of the school (English Medium) by way of the delivery of Irish Medium education from September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mr Gilbert presented the paper* (E/14/16/6.2).

A Member sought assurance that all proposals being presented aligned with the draft Strategic Area Plan. Mr Gilbert advised that the proposals presented to the Committee were the result of the action plan for the 2016/17 financial year. The Strategic Area Plan for 2017-20 would become operational from 1 April 2017.

A Member referred to sustainability issues in respect of this school and referred to the Minister's clear guidance on sustainable schools within the area planning process. It was noted that the draft EA response to DE highlighted that the enrolment trends for the school were well below the minimum threshold as set out in the Sustainable School Policy. In addition, the draft response also highlighted other cost factors to be taken into consideration.

On the proposal of Dr McMorris, seconded by Dr Dynan, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Authority should publish the Development Proposal and approve the Response* (Appendix D) for submission to DE.

6.3 DP 477 Slemish College

To increase the admission number from 120 to 140 in year 8 through an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 720 up to 880 from September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mr Gilbert presented the paper* (E/14/16/6.3) and drew attention to the significant level of interest from other schools in the locality where six schools had raised concerns in respect of the detrimental impact of this proposal on their schools. It was noted that the draft EA Response reflected those concerns.

On the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Rev Adams, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Authority should publish the Development Proposal and approve the Response* (Appendix E) for submission to DE.

6.4 DP 478 Killyleagh Integrated Primary School

To establish a Nursery Unit for 26 part time places with effect from 1 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mr Gilbert presented the paper* (E/14/16/6.4). It was noted that the Pre-School Education Advisory Group (PEAG) was supportive of this proposal.

On the proposal of Mr Craig, seconded by Sr Hegarty, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Authority should publish the Development Proposal and approve the Response* (Appendix 4) for submission to DE.

6.5 DP 479 Moneyrea Primary School

To establish a Nursery Unit for 26 part time places with effect from 1 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mr Gilbert presented the paper* (E/14/16/6.5). It was noted that PEAG was supportive of this proposal.

On the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Mrs Culbert, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Authority should publish the Development Proposal and approve the Response* (Appendix 4) for submission to DE.

6.6 DP 481 Dungannon Integrated College

To extend the approved enrolment from 500 to 740 students. This would permit the College to increase its admission number from 90 to 120 students with effect from 1 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr Gilbert presented the paper* (E/14/16/6.6) and drew attention to the draft EA Response which reflected concerns about the scale of the proposed increase in approved enrolment and admission number and the capital investment that would be required in respect of this proposal.

On the proposal of Dr McMorris, seconded by Sr Hegarty, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Authority should publish the Development Proposal and approve the Response* (Appendix D) for submission to DE.

6.7 DP 483 Mill Strand Integrated PS

To increase the admissions number from 30 to 60 through an annual phased increase in the school's enrolment number from 232 up to 420, commencing in September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Members noted that the proposed increase to the approved admissions and enrolment number was linked to but was not dependent upon DE approval being given to DP 484.

(Rev Adams declared an interest in this item.)

Mr Gilbert presented the paper* (E/12/16/6.7). In response to a Member's query, Mr Gilbert advised that the school had requested and been granted a temporary variation in admission numbers in recent years.

On the proposal of Ms O'Connor, seconded by Dr McMorris, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Authority should publish the Development Proposal and approve the Response* (Appendix E) for submission to DE.

6.8 DP 484 Mill Strand Integrated PS – Nursery Unit

To establish 26 additional part-time nursery places with effect from 1 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Members noted that this proposal was linked to but was not dependent upon DE approval being given to DP 483.

(Rev Adams declared an interest in this item.)

Mr Gilbert presented the paper* (E/12/16/6.8).

On the proposal of Dr McMorris, seconded by Dr McMorran, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Authority should publish the Development Proposal and approve the Response* (Appendix E) for submission to DE.

6.9 DP 487 Bridge Integrated Primary School

To establish a grant maintained integrated nursery unit catering for 26 children on a part time basis with effect from 1 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr Gilbert presented the paper* (E/12/16/6.9).

Members noted that PEAG did not support the proposal as there was no need for additional provision in the area and additional provision would result in the displacement of existing provision. This was reflected in the EA draft Response.

On the proposal of Mr Craig, seconded by Miss Rainey, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Authority should publish the Development Proposal and approve the Response* (Appendix E) for submission to DE.

6.10 DP 488 Enniskillen Integrated Primary School

To establish a single pre-school afternoon session for 26 children (part-time places) from 1 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr Gilbert presented the paper* (E/12/16/6.10).

Members noted that PEAG did not support the proposal as the proposed expansion to the afternoon session at this school would result in displacement of provision within the area. This was reflected in the EA draft Response.

A Member sought assurance that local PEAGs operated the same criteria when examining and determining pre-school provision in an area. Mr Collings confirmed that each PEAG used the same criteria and he outlined the plans in place to establish a regional PEAG.

On the proposal of Mr Craig, seconded by Sr Hegarty, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Authority should publish the Development Proposal and approve the Response* (Appendix F) for submission to DE.

6.11 DP 490 Dalriada School

To increase the admissions number from 125 to 130 in Year 8, with an increase in enrolment number from 815 to 897 pupils, commencing in September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr Gilbert presented the paper* (E/12/16/6.11) and advised that two further proposals would be presented to the Committee at its January meeting for post-primary provision in this area. The two proposals would relate to Our Lady of Lourdes and Ballymoney High School.

On the proposal of Dr McMorris, seconded by Mr Pollock, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Authority should publish the Development Proposal and approve the Response* (Appendix 5) for submission to DE.

The Chair said that, at a future meeting, the Committee would give consideration to its expectations with regard to the Area Planning process and proposals being presented by other sectoral bodies. This would take into account DE policy, the EA's planning authority responsibilities and its obligations within the Shared Education Act.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 12 January 2017.

The meeting ended at 12.18 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

DATE

* Paper issued with agenda *** Paper tabled