

**EDUCATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF SHARED EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the first meeting of the Shared Education Committee held on 29 September 2016 at 12.00 noon in Antrim Board Centre

PRESENT: Rev A Adams (Chairperson)

Mr J Craig	Mr E Jardine
Ms N Gowan	Dr I McMorris
Sr C Hegarty	Ms S O'Connor
Rev R Herron	

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Committee.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ms Á Andrews, Fr T Bartlett and Mrs M Culbert.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded Members to declare interests during the course of the meeting where appropriate.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS FOR THE COMMITTEE

The Chair advised that Mr Collings would present an overview of all Shared Education projects and programmes at the next meeting which would inform the Committee's programme of business.

Action: Overview of projects and programmes to be presented to Committee at its next meeting.

4. SHARED EDUCATION ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2016

The Chair outlined the Authority's statutory responsibilities as set out in the Shared Education Act* (SE/9/16/4). She requested Members to be mindful at all times to ensure that Shared Education is considered when developing, adopting, implementing and revising policies, strategies and plans.

5. SCHEME FOR THE SHARED EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Shared Education Act had been used to inform the draft Scheme* (SE/9/16/5).

Mr Collings presented the Scheme and outlined the proposed functions for the Committee. It was noted that the Scheme would be forwarded to the Senior Legal Adviser for review in line with all other Committee Schemes.

The Committee agreed the Scheme, on the proposal of Dr McMorris, seconded by Ms O'Connor, which would be submitted to the Senior Legal Adviser for review.

(Sr Hegarty entered the meeting at 12.20 pm.)

6. FORMAT OF MEETINGS

The Committee agreed that it should normally meet every other month. As far as possible, Committee meetings would be convened on the same day as other Committee meetings. Dates for meetings to June 2017 would be circulated to Members.

Action: *Circulate dates of meetings to Members up to June 2017.*

7. STRULE SHARED EDUCATION CAMPUS PROJECT : UPDATE

Rev Herron declared an interest as he served on the Strule Main Campus Phase 2 Project Board.

The Committee noted the Strule Delivery Plan* which advised that key delivery milestones were on track. Mr Collings said that he represented the EA on the Project Board. He advised that DE had commissioned a Gateway Review on the project and he would keep the Committee apprised of the outcomes of that review.

A Member referred to two participating schools in this project and welcomed the move from selection to non-selection.

8. SHARED EDUCATION CAMPUS PROJECTS : UPDATE

Members noted major schemes which were currently being progressed:

- Cross and Passion College and Ballycastle High School
- St John's Primary School and Moy Primary School
- Moneynick and Duneane Primary Schools, Toomebridge

Mr Gilbert said that a third call for expressions of interest in the Shared Education Campuses Programme had been announced on 20 September 2016. Applications were required to be submitted to DE on 27 January 2017. In order to meet this deadline, all schools had been notified that they should submit applications to the EA by 16 December. Those applications going forward from the catholic maintained sector would require CCMS approval. He advised that the Board, at its meeting on 26 January 2017, would give consideration to all applications.

A Member asked if the criteria within the Programme took account of schools representing communities with socio economic challenges. Mr Gilbert said the main aim of the programme was the sharing of education between the two largest communities.

A Member queried funding for the Programme. Mr Gilbert said the Programme would be met from additional Treasury money which was time bounded to 2018/19. This money was

additional to capital funding. Members welcomed the opportunity available to schools to avail of this funding outside the capital programme.

Discussion ensued in relation to the draft Area Plan 2017-20 and, in particular, on areas where schools had been identified as experiencing financial pressures. Mr Gilbert said that consultation would take place in the coming months on the draft Area Plan and this would inform detailed Action Plans. A Member commented that the Area Plan should also reflect school development which set out children's outcomes.

Members commented on the need to clarify the division of responsibilities between the Shared Education Committee and the Education Committee in certain aspects of business. It was considered that this division would be made clearer in the coming months.

The Chair of the Board encouraged Members to engage in local community planning events.

9. PEACE IV APPLICATION : UPDATE

Mr Craig declared an interest as he served on Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.

Mr Gilbert outlined the work involved in the application process to secure funding against Specific Objective 1 (Shared Education) of the Peace IV Programme. The bid put forward by the EA, in partnership with Leargas, had been successful at Stage 1 of the application process and the business case for Stage 2 would be submitted the following day.

Mr Gilbert said that the project would target those schools that had not previously participated in Shared Education. The project had a target of 350 schools to be involved in shared education, 2,100 teachers to be trained with the capacity to facilitate shared education and involving 144,000 pupils. In order to meet the pupil target, Mr Gilbert said that over 500 schools were required to be involved.

The Committee would receive an update on the outcome of the application process.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 3 November 2016 at 2.00 pm

The meeting ended at 1.15 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

DATE

* Paper issued with agenda