

LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
9 MARCH 2012

Minutes of the meeting of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council, held at County Hall, Mold on Friday, 9 March 2012.

PRESENT: Councillor R.P. Macfarlane (Chairman)

Councillors: R Dolphin, F Gillmore, D.I. Mackie, D.L. Mackie and C.A. Thomas

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Mr D Hytch and Mrs. T. Millington

SUBSTITUTIONS: Councillor J.B. Attridge for A.P. Shotton

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Q.R.H. Dodd, M.J. Peers (initiators of the call-in), and K. Armstrong-Braun

APOLOGIES: Councillors R C Bithell, E.F. Evans, H.T. Howorth, H.T. Isherwood, C. Legg, H J McGuill and W.O. Thomas

REPRESENTING THE DECISION MAKERS: Executive Member for Education, Director of Lifelong Learning, and Staffing and Governance Development Manager

IN ATTENDANCE: Member Engagement Manager and Committee Officer

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (including Whipping Declarations)

The Chairman advised Members of the need to declare a personal interest in school related items on the agenda if they were school or college governors.

80. CONSIDERATION OF A MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO THE CALL-IN ARRANGEMENTS

The Member Engagement Manager explained the procedure for the Call-In of an Executive decision.

81. PANEL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF LEA GOVERNORS

The Call-In had related to the decision of the Executive from its meeting held on 21 February 2012 on Panel for the Appointment of LEA Governors. The Call-In notice had been signed by four Members of the Council. To assist Members, the following documents had been circulated with the agenda:

- (a) A copy of the procedure for dealing with a called in item.
- (b) A copy of the report considered by the Executive on 21 February 2012.
- (c) A copy of the Executive Record of Decision.

- (d) A copy of the Call In letter signed by Councillors J.B. Attridge, Q.R.H. Dodd, P.G. Heesom, and M.J. Peers.

Councillor M.J. Peers outlined the reasons for the Call-In. He said that at a meeting of the Panel for the Appointment of LEA Governors held on 17 June 2011, a review of the arrangements, powers and responsibilities of the Panel had taken place and it was agreed that a report be submitted to the Constitution Committee recommending that the Executive amend the existing procedures. The Constitution Committee, at a meeting held on 19 October 2011, endorsed the recommendations of the Panel for consideration by the Executive as detailed in paragraphs 3.01 to 3.08 of the report submitted to the meeting of the Constitution Committee.

Councillor Peers explained that the Panel operated well within its terms of reference. He emphasised that there had been no discussions with the Panel concerning the proposal that the Executive considered its removal or that the recommendations made by the Constitution Committee in its report at 3.01 to 3.08 be used in an alternative process. He also commented that the request that Executive note the recommendations made by the Constitution Committee in its report conflicted with the recommendation that the Panel ceased to exist.

Councillor J.B. Attridge stated that the purpose for establishing the Panel was to ensure that the process for appointment of LEA Governors was open, fair and transparent. Councillor Q.R.H. Dodd concurred with the comments expressed by Councillor Attridge and said it was important that procedures were subjected to scrutiny.

In response to the statements made by the initiators of the Call-In, the Executive Member for Education explained that when the Panel was set up it had not been envisaged that it would be dealing with the appointment of all LEA Governors. As a result a significant back-log of undisputed appointments had built up which had subsequently created difficulties for school Governing Bodies. The Director of Lifelong Learning emphasised the need for suitable and timely appointments to be made to Governing Bodies. He responded to the comments and concerns expressed by Members and reported on the ratification process which had been in place prior to the existence of the Panel and which could be applied for future nominations.

The Director and Staffing and Governance Manager explained that delays in the appointments process could occur for a number of reasons and advised that all outstanding nominations had now been ratified following a quorate meeting of the Panel. Councillor Peers stated that a backlog had not been created by the work of the Panel but had arisen as a result of delays in the nomination process and through lack of consultation with adjoining ward Members. He reported that the Panel had made a recommendation that a form of wording be included on the nomination form to request that adjoining Ward Members respond within 21 days or it would be considered that the nomination was acceptable. Councillor Dodd explained that the Panel did not have a fixed cycle of meetings but dealt with nominations regularly as the need arose.

At the end of the discussions the Chair invited the signatories to the Call-In to sum up their position. Councillor M.J. Peers thanked the Executive Member and Officers for their detailed and informative responses. The Member Engagement Manager explained the Committee's options for reaching a decision. Councillor J. B. Attridge proposed Option 3 which was seconded and on being put to the vote the proposal was carried.

RESOLVED:

That having considered the decision, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was still concerned about it and thus referred the decision back to the Executive.

82. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting began at 10.00am and ended at 10.50pm.

83. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS

There were no members of the press present

84. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

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Chairman

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S
CODE OF CONDUCT**

LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	DATE: 9 MARCH 2012
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
<p>Councillors R.P. Macfarlane, J.B. Attridge, Q.R.H. Dodd, R Dolphin, F Gillmore, D.I. Mackie, D.L. Mackie, M.J. Peers and C.A. Thomas</p> <p><u>CO-OPTED MEMBERS:</u> Mr D Hytch and Mrs. T. Millington</p>	Panel for appointment of LEA Governors	81