

LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)**8 DECEMBER 2004**

Chair: * Councillor Mitzi Green

Councillors:	* Nana Asante	* Janet Mote
	* Gate	John Nickolay
	* Mary John	* Omar
	* Kinsey	* Anjana Patel (2)
	* Vina Mithani (1)	

Voting Co-opted: (Voluntary Aided) (Parent Governors)

† Mrs J Rammelt	† Mr H Epie
* Reverend P Reece	† Mr R Sutcliffe

* Denotes Member present
 (1) and (2) Denote category of Reserve Member
 † Denotes apologies received

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL**PART II - MINUTES**174. **Appointment of Chair:**

RESOLVED: To note the appointment at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 24 November 2004 of Councillor Mitzi Green as Chair of the Sub-Committee for the remainder of the 2004/2005 Municipal Year.

175. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Members:-

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>
Councillor Jean Lammiman	Councillor Anjana Patel
Councillor Osborn	Councillor Vina Mithani

176. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interest made by Members in relation to the business transacted at this meeting.

177. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

RESOLVED: That (1) in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following agenda item be admitted late to the agenda by virtue of the special circumstances and grounds for urgency detailed below:-

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Special Circumstances/Grounds for Urgency</u>
10. Proposed Schools Budget 2005/06	This report was not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated owing to the announcement of the provisional settlement being made on 2 December 2004. Members are asked to consider the report in order to make recommendations (if any) to Cabinet on the proposed schools budget.

(2) all items be considered with the press and public present.

178. **Appointment of Vice Chair:**

RESOLVED: That Councillor Janet Mote be appointed as Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee for the remainder of the 2004/2005 Municipal Year.

179. **Minutes:**
RESOLVED: That the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2004 be deferred until the next meeting, at which point the Council Bound Minute Volume would be available.
180. **Public Questions:**
RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were put at the meeting under the provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 8.
181. **Petitions:**
RESOLVED: To note that no petitions were received at the meeting under the provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 9.
182. **Deputations:**
RESOLVED: To note that no deputations were received at the meeting under the provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 10.
183. **Proposed Schools Budget 2005/06:**
The Sub-Committee received a joint report of the Executive Director (Business Connections) and the Executive Director (People First), which provided details of the proposed schools budget for 2005/2006. It was explained that the report would be submitted to Cabinet for decision at its meeting on 16 December 2004. It was added that the Council was required to notify the DfES of its decision by 31 December 2004.

Members initially discussed the schools formula funding and the adequacy of funding for socially deprived pupils. The Sub-Committee was advised that many Local Authorities had struggled to assemble robust data that could be used for funding social deprivation through the schools formula. The Sub-Committee also questioned the £165,000 contingency under the central items provision. It was explained that this contingency would provide a greater degree of flexibility within the central items budget and could cover an increase in expenditure across all the central item areas for the following year. A query was raised over the £43,000 designated as 'Other.' It was reported that this provision represented a small contingency for schools that faced exceptional circumstances and could be distributed outside of the formula funding. Concern was expressed over whether this figure represented a sufficient amount, particularly given the potential for further school amalgamations.

The Sub-Committee concurred with the view that the budget represented a good settlement for the Council and agreed to pass its comments onto Cabinet.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet be requested to fully passport and spend at the notified Schools Block total.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.34 pm, closed at 7.50 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR MITZI GREEN
Chair