

Department of Education and Children

Education Council Meeting

Held On 13th December 2013 at 10.00pm

At the Professional Development Centre, Santon Old School, Santon

Present: The Hon Tim Crookall, MHK, (Chairperson); Mr T Wild, MLC; Mr J Turner, MLC who joined the meeting at 10.30.

Mr R Bankes-Jones; Mrs G Skinner; Mrs M Frankwick; Mrs T Martin; Mr R Smith; Mrs L Strickett; Mr R Turton; Mrs M Mansfield; Mrs F Robinson; Mrs J Pendree; Dr P G S Allinson-Cook; Mr G Roberts; Mr S Bevan; Mrs B Brereton; Mr T Bennion;

In

Attendance: Professor R Barr, Chief Executive Officer; Mr M Barrow, Director of Education; Mr J Gill, Head of Legal and Administrative Services; Mr J Swindlehurst, Manager of Legal and Administrative Services; Mrs J Buss – Secretary

Item	Business	Action
	The Minister opened by welcoming Professor Ronald Barr, Chief Executive Officer, to the meeting. The Minister asked each Member to introduce themselves to Professor Barr and state which schools they represented.	
1.	Input to the Corporate Strategy Map and Business Plan Priorities - Mrs Heather Christian, Director of Strategy and Corporate Services HC said that Members had been sent copies of the relevant paperwork. If there were any areas of the Council's activities which were not reflected in the Business Plan, Members should get back in touch with HC by mid-January.	
2.	Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2013 The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 th July 2013 were taken to be correct and were signed off by the Minister.	
3.	Matters arising from the Minutes not shown elsewhere on the Agenda. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A Member stated that item 3, point 3 had not been dealt with. HC responded that the Recruitment Policy does apply, and although not resolved as yet, this matter needed to be sorted locally and will be looked into.2. With regard to Catchment Areas, a draft document had been completed and once finalised, this would be released to Members. JS would be meeting with those Members involved, after the meeting to discuss the draft. The Minister stated that during recent meetings held in the North and West of the Island, the catchment issue had been very much alive. In the current financial times, the Department needs to use this policy to best advantage.3. HC stated the Department papers had been submitted to the Scope team. There had been a need to demonstrate that all areas had been closely looked at. Changes will occur as a result of this and Members need to be aware that some Headteachers would not like the changes. Pay rises and other costs would need to come from existing budgets as there is no extra money available. Management teams within schools would need to develop better strategic business planning skills, as the Department does not have funds for any new initiatives etc. RB stated that to date, there was agreement in principle to forthcoming changes, but more details would be added. He just wanted to give Members a heads up, in	

advance of what was to come.

4. HC stated that the Council were referred to on Page 2 of the Business Plan.
5. JG clarified the position with regard to school Governors. Terms of office for Parent and Teachers went from January to January; for co-opted Governors, from September to September, so that any changes were not all taking place at once. A briefing document was being prepared, which would be sent to School Administrators in due time.

4. Questions from the Education Council Members

- (i) Update on Exam Invigilators - Examination invigilators are to be required to register as self-employed and will consequently require individual public liability insurance (cost quoted by Tower Insurance £250) and police checks. There are now real concerns that many of the current teams of invigilators may not be willing to continue in this vital role. Has anything been decided? (Mrs J Pendree)**

HC responded that she initially approached the Assessor of Income Tax seeking an amendment to the Income Tax and National Insurance legislation to remove the requirement for invigilators to be self-employed. Whilst the Assessor was not prepared to change the legislation, hence invigilators will continue to be classed as self-employed, she kindly agreed that, given the level of earnings, the requirement to register as self-employed would be waived and Treasury Payroll requested to continue to pay Invigilators. No National Insurance is being deducted at source. However Income Tax continues to be deducted where applicable. When Income Tax Returns are received referring to invigilator work, the staff of the Income Tax Division are aware that this is classed as self-employment for both Income Tax and National Insurance purposes.

Therefore, to all intents and purposes, we are able to maintain the status quo. Invigilators are being engaged in the usual way. They are subject to the same pre-engagement checks and continue to be paid via payroll on the submission of timesheets. They also continue to be covered by the Isle of Man Government's Insurance.

This way forward was agreed in August 2013 and the invigilators and schools advised accordingly.

- (ii) Could we please have confirmation as to what professional and business courses the Manx Education Foundation plan to run at the Nunnery and whether these will impact on those courses currently run there by the Isle of Man College? (Mrs F Robinson)**

MB responded that the MEF have been given until 31st March 2014 to raise the necessary money to buy the Nunnery. As to their academic plans, it is the Department's understanding that the only firm academic arrangement in place is an agreement with Hewlett Packard to deliver training for that company, which does not conflict with that already offered at IoM College.

- (iii) When will the results of the recent Inspection of Services for Children be published? What is the likely impact on the work of DEC? (Mrs G Skinner/Mrs B Brereton)**

MB replied that the written results of the inspection should have been with us at the beginning of the month and we have yet to receive them. When they have been received and analysed the report will go to Tynwald probably in February. There are likely to be changes to committee structures in this area, as well as focus on early intervention and

closer working between relevant Government Departments.

(iv) Is the DEC going to implement an all-island "tracking system" for all students? (Mrs G Skinner)

1. Secondary schools have been asked to use KS2 levels for English, Maths and Science, alongside MidYIS and YELLIS predictions, in order to set aspirational targets through to KS4 (GCSE). Some schools are already doing this. All schools are already tracking pupil progress and the utilisation of KS2 data in this should not require a new "tracking system". The Department is looking at the possibility of providing annual matrices showing aggregate levels of progress from KS2 to KS4 (eg from KS2 Level 4 to GCSE B is counted as "three levels" progress ie 4 - 5 is one level, 5 - C is one level , C - B is one level).

2. Quite independently of this, the Department's ICT Team have been working on introducing a Management Information System that will incorporate a pupil tracking facility. This will be piloted in KS1 and KS2 early next term.

(v) Following on from previous discussions, what decision has been made regarding GCSE's? (Mrs G Skinner)

MB responded that the Department is still in the process of assessing the various options which will lead to those that are considered viable being the subject of a Public Consultation in the spring of 2014 before any final decision is taken. We would obviously encourage Education Council Members to take part in that consultation process and express their views.

(v) Is there likely to be a change in the way students with specific needs eg delayed development, serious illness will be funded for study off island, if their needs cannot be met on-island?

The Department is currently reviewing support to students to study Higher and Further education both on and off-Island. This review will cover those students with specific needs.

As you will be aware, the Student Awards Regulations were in the main directed at students undertaking higher education off Island but over the years have developed to incorporate increasing numbers of on Island and vocational studies. Whilst the Regulations provide an effective mechanism for providing this support, through clear application of certain criteria including previous academic achievement, they are not as effective at providing support where there are more specific needs.

Another mechanism outside of the Student Awards Regulations could be developed to support such students and the Department is currently exploring this option. One option may be for a small group of Council Members and Department officers to be established, who could assess such applications and make outcome based decisions, dependent upon the individual circumstances of students.

The Department will report back on the progress of this review.

7. Any other matters of urgent importance

A Member asked if the DEC would inherit any liabilities from the DCCL? RB responded that the budgets would also come to the DEC and that many of the functions sit well with the Department. It would be a matter of good change management.

A Member stated that South, West and Northern residents make contributions through their rates towards swimming pools in their areas, whilst the East does not. The Minister said this matter was being looked into.

A Member stated that concern was expressed at Governors meetings, that in 2 years' time the majority of Governors and Education Council Members would be at the end of their 6 year term. JG responded that this was embodied within primary legislation, but a new Education Bill was being drafted which would look at the roles of Governing bodies. Members will be provided with a Draft when appropriate.

Mr J Turner, MLC reported that he had attended a Tynwald Committee meeting earlier that morning regarding the care of children. Details would soon be available on the Tynwald website and mentioned in the press within the next couple of weeks. In their roles as Governors, Members may have input into this.

RB advised Members that MB would be retiring in April. An appointment will be made in due course.

The next meeting will take place on Friday 21st March 2014. A formal reminder will be sent out.

The meeting ended at 11.30 am.

Signed

Minister for Education and Children

Date