

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CHILDREN
EDUCATION AND COUNCIL MEETING
Held on
Monday, 28th November, 2016
Conference Room, Hamilton House, Peel Road

Present	The Hon G. Cregeen, MHK Mr G. Corkish, MLC	Mr L. Hooper, MHK Professor R. Barr - CEO
Council Members	Mrs Jennifer Pendree Mrs Tracey Martin Mrs Diane Brown Mrs Barbara Brereton Mr Andrew Cole	Mrs Margaret Mansfield Mr Robin Turton Mr Steven Bevan Mr Ray Smith Mrs Louise Strickett
In attendance	Mr G. Moorcroft	
Apologies	Mrs A Corlett, MHK	Mrs Jennifer Pendree
Minutes	Mr A Shipley-Legal & Admin Manager	

AGENDA ITEMS		
Item	Business	Action by
1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were given as above by Mrs A Corlett, MHK and Mrs Jennifer Pendree.	
2.	Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd March 2016 The minutes of the last meeting held on 8 th July, 2016 were recorded as a true and correct record.	
3.	Matters Arising from the minutes not shown on the Agenda It was requested that training should be available for the writing of minutes for school administrators.	AS
4.	SSRE Presentation The Director of Education delivered a presentation regarding SSRE; which consisted of three aspects, school self-evaluation initially, followed by input from the Education Improvement Service and then finally, external validation. Thanks were expressed to the working party who had been involved in this project. A copy of the grade descriptors was circulated and explained to the	

	<p>Education Council members. They were also informed that there will be no external validations for this academic year as a tender process will be undertaken to find a suitable external validator and to give schools time to take on-board the new grade descriptors. The presentation will be emailed to Education Council members.</p> <p>Questions were asked about School Improvement Partners and achieving the 'inspirational category'. Ambitious goals were highlighted as being important and 'personal development' as the first category was praised. It was questioned whether 12 months would be long enough as preparation time and it was felt that it would be to enable short, sharp assessments to be made as part of the SSRE commentary. MESMA have been chosen to provide the cloud based SSRE portal. Minister Cregeen suggested that to be concise the commentary written by schools could be kept to a page of writing but the Director of Education suggested that flexibility was needed for different sized schools and that it was the quality of what is written which is most important. The Director of Education also stated that external reviews will be tendered on a 3 yearly basis for all 37 schools.</p>	DoE
5.	Work permits - It would appear that at the moment Primary Schools are struggling to find, let alone make quality appointments both full time and on supply. Could the DEC investigate the possibility of removing the Work Permit Rule, as has been done in the Senior sector, for teacher appointments?	
	In response to the question asked it was said that a review of the work permit system is underway so that growth of the economy will be enabled by making the application process simpler and more straightforward. It was stated that there will not be a mechanism to over-ride the work permit system. This then led to a question about police checks for staff and the possibility of risk assessments being undertaken to allow staff to work, providing the individuals concerned were not left unsupervised until full DBS checks were undertaken.	
6.	Co-opted governors - I would like to seek guidance on the appointment and tenure of co-opted governors. There could be issues with conflict of interest as well as an ongoing situation where parent governors are no longer able to stand but are immediately co-opted to maintain the status quo.	
	There was discussion around the length of time that people can be governors in schools, possibly as parent governors and then as co-opted governors. In some instances this can be for twelve or more years, which was felt by some members to not be a healthy situation. The view was expressed that new people may help to push new ideas forward. It was suggested that ideas could be brought forward to the next meeting by the Legal and Administration Manager for discussion.	AS
7.	Risk assessment	
	The Legal and Administration Manager gave a presentation on risk registers and assessing risk and requested that this issue was considered by governing	

	bodies on a regular basis, with information to be sent in to the Department of Education and Children.	
8.	Any Other Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Bill – This is being considered afresh and will be the subject of a recommendation from Tynwald and the Social Affairs Policy Review Committee. Wide consultation, including with members of the Education Council will be needed. • Pre-school – regulations and inspections are needed and measures are being considered on an interim basis along with DHSC. Needs across the island will also be considered. • Delegations – the delegations for the Department Members were mentioned and Mr Hooper, MHK is responsible for buildings, estates and catering services. Mr Hooper responded by saying that he is currently looking at the Catering Service and what education actually needs. The Chief Executive Officer said that some things might need to be done differently in a few of the shared services. Employment and Skills was also mentioned along with an all island framework for careers, as it was felt that it was unclear where employers and businesses could go for support. Mr Corkish has responsibility for Arts and Culture and Mrs Corlett, Youth and Inclusion and Safeguarding. Minister Cregeen said that it had been a busy few months since the election. The three priorities for the Department of Education and Children are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-school ... inspection; training and gaps in provision ○ Lifelong learning – short courses and distance learning ○ Consolidating level 4 qualifications. • Academic year – the Chief Executive Officer said that the academic year does not marry with the financial year and that this issue needs addressing. There was a query raised by a member over the financial year end in the UK and a question about the effect of this on primary school budgets. • St Thomas' – There will be a meeting with the Reverend J McGowen and others about possibilities for replacing St Thomas'. There will be on-going discussions. • St Mary's – Plans regarding the development of the school are going forward subject to a decision by Tynwald. Treasury is minded to support. • A member asked about pupils with suspensions longer than 10 days and what further sanctions are possible? The Chief Executive Officer said that a representative of the Education Support Centre is working on this but the Department of Education and Children has an obligation to educate up to the age of 16. It was said that tailored capacity is needed for individuals and the Education Support Centre needs further development. This was followed by a member saying that things need to be done now with disruptive children and that schools need help now. The Minister said that long term programmes are needed to work with children. The Chief Executive Officer said more resources could be put in and talked about the vires to take action outside of the school gate. 	All

	<p>Problems tend to be complex and involve a number of pressures. It was said that the Headteacher union, ASCL have a check list regarding behaviour which has been used. The Chief Executive Officer said that people have put in a lot of effort to try and resolve issues. Current issues were highlighted again by another member and the Chief Executive Officer said that the current legal framework on the island limits what can be done. In the short term, more resources may need to be put in to the Education Support Centre. Another member talked again about suspensions and the possibility of others being hurt and the potential backlash.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member raised the issue of road works in Ramsey causing problems regarding drop-off and policing of pupils in getting them in to school. The Director of Estates is working with the DOI about this issue and the Health and Safety Officer is also involved to consider any concerns. The Headteacher’s responsibilities start and end at the school gate. • A question was raised about Children’s Services and budgets. This is under review and when something definitive is known it will be brought back to the Education Council. • Castle Rushen High School – the feasibility study has been completed by the Director of Estates. 	
Date of next meeting		
	<p>The next Education Council meeting will be held on Monday 20th March 2017 at 10.00am in the Conference room, Hamilton House.</p>	

Signed

Date