

Corporate, Adult Services & Social Inclusion Select Committee

A meeting of Corporate, Adult Services & Social Inclusion Select Committee was held on Tuesday, 14th September, 2010.

Present: Cllr Mick Stoker (Chair); Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Bill Noble, Cllr Roy Rix

Officers: Mrs A Brown, J McCann (DNS); Mrs T Harrison, Miss M Jones, Mrs J Trainer (LD)

Also in attendance: Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy

Apologies: Cllr Aidan Cockerill and Mrs Tina Large

CAS 16/10

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CAS 17/10

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2010

Members considered the draft minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2010.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2010 be agreed as a correct record and be forwarded to Council.

CAS 18/10

Minutes to be signed by the Chairman - 19th January 2010, 9th March 2010, 20th April 2010 and 15th June 2010

CONCLUDED that the minutes were signed by the Chair in the office of Democratic Services.

CAS 19/10

EIT Review of School Catering

The Head of Direct Services presented a list of potential options for school catering, with a brief analysis for each option that had been prepared for Members consideration, and requested Members to select options for further detailed analysis.

It was noted that Head Teachers would be consulted on the options selected and feedback would be provided to the Committee.

Members expressed concerns with Option 1 - Reduction of meal producing kitchens from 58 to smaller amount with larger production kitchens to cook meals and despatch to other schools, however requested that this option be presented to Head Teachers for their feedback.

Further detailed analysis was requested for the following options:
Option 2 - Reduction of labour guide scales for staff hours. All kitchens used staffing guide scales on a weekly basis to calculate the following weeks hours needed based on the weeks meals produced. Hours could fluctuate weekly as meals increased/decreased

Option 6 - Increase the cost of the school meal for those who paid

Option 7 - Do not carry out/reduce the "added value" work

Option 8 - Partnering with Darlington Borough Council

Members discounted the following options:

Option 3 - Provision of only cold meals e.g. sandwiches, wraps and fruit

Option 4 - Provision of a service for hot free school meals only

Option 5 - Provision of a service for cold free school meals only

Option 9 - Outsource School Meals Service

Members advised that school catering impacted on Health and Well-being. Therefore the Committee wished to seek the views of Health Select and Children and Young People Select Committee Members, and would extend an invitation to the next meeting.

The Head of Direct Services informed Members of an additional option to move to a different model of delivery. It was noted that investigation was being carried out on this option and would be presented to the Committee at a future meeting.

Discussion took place regarding ways in which income could be generated for school catering. Members asked whether kitchens could be hired out in the evenings; however it was observed that it would be a decision for the governing bodies and would generate money for the school but not for the service.

Officers noted that a funding received from the PCT to promote healthy eating had ceased, and this would need to be taken into consideration. Officers also advised that the Standard Fund Grant would no longer be ring fenced for catering purposes; therefore schools could use the funding for other areas. Members requested details of the impact of the loss of funding on the service, including potential impact of future fuel increases.

Members also requested further information on the management structure of the service.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. Further detailed analysis be provided on options 2, 6, 7 and 8.
3. Feedback following consultation with Head Teachers be provided to the Committee.
4. Details of the impact of the loss of funding on the service, including potential impact of future fuel increases and detailed work on the management structure be provided to Members.

**CAS
20/10**

Work Programme

CONCLUDED that the next meeting will be held on 26th October 2010.