Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the Tuesday, 12 January 2016 at the Committee Rooms 1 & 2 - Deanes, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council at 6.30 pm

Members of the Scrutiny Committee in attendance: Councillor N Pierce, Councillor J Smith, Councillor I Tilbury, Councillor S Bound, Councillor J Cousens, Councillor G Falconer, Councillor S Frost, Councillor H Golding, Councillor S Keating and Councillor P Miller

Also Present

Councillor C Osselton - Cabinet Member for Partnerships.
Jean Thorpe – Hampshire County Council Schools Improvement Manager for Basingstoke and Deane.
David Hardcastle - Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service Area Director.

25/15 Apologies for absence and substitutions

Apologies were received from Councillor K Watts.

26/15 Declarations of interest

Councillors N Pierce, P Miller and G Falconer declared an interest in item five on the grounds that they were governors of schools within the borough.

Councillor S Frost declared an interest in item five on the grounds that he was the council’s representative for Everest Academy.

27/15 Urgent Matters

There were no urgent items

28/15 Educational attainment in the borough

For the first part of the meeting, the committee passed a resolution that, owing to the confidential nature of the documents tabled at the meeting, the meeting move into private session.

After bringing the meeting back into public session, the Chairman invited the committee to ask questions to the visiting speakers from Hampshire County Council. The speakers explained with regards to faith schools, from the research they were aware of, there was not any conclusive indication they perform better or worse than non-faith schools. Furthermore, analysing academic results by gender was something that Hampshire County Council would consider in the future. The speakers explained Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council should promote a unique selling point for teachers to move to the area and work. This was suggested as a way of improving the number and quality of teachers applying to work in local
schools. They said they would feed back to committee members about their future discussions with local head teachers and their perspectives on boosting teacher recruitment and retention.

In response to questions, the speakers explained there were certain areas in the south which were lacking in available teaching staff, with Basingstoke being one such area. Councillors and the visiting speakers commented that the issue of teacher recruitment was complex, and the cost of housing, whilst important, was only one of many variables in a teacher’s decision on where to work. Councillors commented many teachers were open to commuting long distances to find employment, without wanting to move. The speakers added there were a particular lack of science, mathematics and english teachers, and that physical education teachers were in a surplus. They added this was useful when physical education teachers transfer their teaching skills to other subjects.

Resolved:

The committee notes the presentation given by representatives from Hampshire County Council.

29/15  **GP Services and healthcare task group update**

The officer updated the committee on the work of the GP services and healthcare task group. He explained that the group, constituted of councillors, had sent a list of questions to the local CCG in preparation for the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 8 March 2016. These questions revolved primarily around the future provision of General Practice services and healthcare centres.

30/15  **Review of work programme**

The committee agreed the work programme as presented in the agenda.

The meeting ended at 20:18

CHAIRMAN

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified.

Chairman