

# Education and Lifelong Learning Committee Minutes (ELL2-11-05mins)

**Meeting date: Thursday 13 October 2005**

**Meeting time: 9.00am -12.30pm**

**Meeting venue: Committee Rooms 3 & 4, National Assembly, Cardiff Bay**

## Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Peter Black (Chair)	South Wales West
Christine Chapman (Deputy Minister)	Cynon Valley
Jeff Cuthbert	Caerphilly
Jane Davidson (Minister)	Pontypridd
William Graham	South Wales East
Mark Isherwood	North Wales
Irene James	Islwyn
Denise Idris Jones	Conwy
David Melding (Item 4 )	South West Central
Janet Ryder	North Wales
Owen John Thomas	South West Central

## Officials in Attendance

Name	Job title
Richard Davies	Group Director, Department for Training and Education (DfTE)
Elizabeth Taylor	Head, Schools Management Division

Alan Lansdown	Head, Pupil Support Division
Wayne Williams	Statistical Directorate
Judith Nedin	Head, Business Systems Division
Catherine Roberts	Schools Management Division

## Others in Attendance

Name	Representing	Agenda item
Nichola Jones	Bridgend Local Education Authority	4
Gill Coleman	SENCo/ Headteacher, Williamstown Primary School	4
Meinir Rees	SENCo, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr	4
Alison Jones	SENCo, Pen-y-dre Comprehensive School	4
Angela Dilley	SENCo, Porthcawl Comprehensive School	4

## Committee Service

Name	Job title
Karin Phillips	Acting Clerk/Head of Members' Research and Committee Services
Holly Pembridge	Deputy Clerk
Joanest Jackson	Legal Adviser

## Item 1: Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions, Quorum and Declarations of Interest (9.00am-9.05am)

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and Members of the public.

1.2 No apologies were received.

1.3 Karin Phillips (Head of Members' Research and Committee Service) acted as Committee Clerk for the meeting.

1.4 The Chair informed the Committee that the Panel of Chairs had endorsed the Committee's proposed fact-finding visit to Denmark in relation to the Special Educational Needs policy review. The Committee resolved to undertake the visit in the New Year as part of the third phase of the review relating to 'Transition.'

1.5 The Chair announced that a scrutiny training session for all Committee Members would be held on 14 November. Committee Service would circulate further details.

1.6 There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with Standing Order 4.6.

1.7 A verbatim record of the meeting is available.

## **Item 2: Minister's Report (9.05am - 9.50am)**

**Paper: ELL2-11-05(p.1)**

2.1 The Minister introduced her report and then answered questions.

Action: Minister to distribute interim report on the external evaluation of the Welsh Baccalaureate to Committee Members when available

Action: Initial Teacher Training to be a substantive agenda item in January 2006

Action: Minister to supply a report for information to the next Committee meeting relating to the Government Community Focussed School Grant

## **Item 3: Budget Planning Round (9.50am - 10.40am)**

**Papers: ELL2 11-05(p.2) and ELL2 11-05(p.2a)**

3.1 The Committee discussed its priorities for the budget and agreed to write to the Minister to outline to convey the priorities.

3.2 The Chair informed the Committee that it would consider the education and training elements of the second draft budget at a future meeting in the Autumn term.

Action: Chair to write to the Education and Lifelong Learning Minister to convey the Committee's budget priorities, copying to the Minister for Finance and Local Government

Action: Minister to confirm the handling of efficiency savings for schools and local government formulae with Minister for Finance and Local Government and inform the Committee

**Item 4: Secondary Legislation Forward Look (10.40am-10.42am)**

**Paper: ELL2 11-05(p.4)**

4.1 The Chair asked for Members to notify the Clerk of any secondary legislation they wished to be scrutinised.

**Item 5: Minutes of the Previous Meeting (10.42am-10.45am)**

**Paper: ELL2 09-05(mins)**

5.1 The Committee ratified the minutes of the meeting of 21 September.

5.2 The Chair informed the Committee that the Panel of Chairs had agreed that the formal ratification of the procedural minutes of each meeting should be at the discretion of individual Chairs and Committees. The Committee resolved to include the procedural minute as a paper to note at future meetings.

**Item 6: Policy Review of Special Educational Needs - Evidence Gathering (11.00am - 12.10pm)**

**Papers: None - oral item**

6.1 The Committee received evidence from Nichola Jones (Bridgend Local Education Authority) and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators: Gill Coleman, Meinir Rees, Alison Jones and Angela Dilley.

Action: Minister to provide the Committee with a note on the analysis of characteristics of pupils with SEN from the recently launched national pupil database.

**Item 7: Report on Budgets Set by Local Authorities for Education Services in 2005-06 (12.10pm - 12.30pm)**

**Paper: ELL2 11-05(p.3)**

7.1 The Committee discussed the report provided by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Action: The Minister to provide the Committee with on falling pupil roll numbers and the impact on per pupil spend in each local education authority

Action: The Minister to provide the Committee with information on the education Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) as a percentage of the total SSA, for each local education authority.

The Committee noted the following papers:

Teacher Incentive Regulations

Paper: ELL2 11-05(p.5)

Correspondence from Business Minister re Disability Discrimination (Public Authorities) (Statutory Duties) Regulations 2005

Paper: ELL2 11-05(p.6)