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## SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

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Meeting to be held in Civic Hall, Leeds on  
Friday, 9th June, 2006 at 9.30 am

*(Please note that there is **NO** pre-meeting scheduled prior to this meeting)*

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### MEMBERSHIP

#### **Councillors**

- J Bale (Chair) - Guiseley and Rawdon
- J Chapman - Weetwood
- B Cleasby - Horsforth
- R Feldman - Alwoodley
- A Harrison - Garforth and Swillington
- V Kendall - Roundhay
- L Mulherin - Ardsley and Robin Hood
- T Murray - Garforth and Swillington
- K Renshaw - Ardsley and Robin Hood
- B Selby - Killingbeck and Seacroft

#### Co-opted Members (Voting)

- Mr E A Britten - Church Representative (Catholic)
- Prof P H J H Gosden - Church Representative (Church of England)
- Mr R Greaves - Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)
- Mr C Macpherson - Parent Governor Representative (Special)
- Vacancy - Parent Governor Representative (Primary)

#### Co-opted Members (Non-Voting)

- Mr T Hales - Teacher Representative
- Ms C Foote - Teacher Representative
- Mrs S Hutchinson - Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- Mr P Gathercole - NCH Representative
- Ms G Cooper - Youth Work Partnership Representative

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# A G E N D A

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p><b>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 25 of the Access to Information Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded)</p>	
2			<p><b>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC</b></p> <p>To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public.</p>	
3			<p><b>LATE ITEMS</b></p> <p>To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration.</p> <p>(The special circumstance shall be specified in the minutes).</p>	
4			<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b></p> <p>To declare any personal / prejudicial interests for the purpose of Section 81(3) of the Local Government Act 2000 and paragraphs 8 to 13 of the Members' Code of Conduct.</p>	
5			<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>To receive any apologies for absence from the meeting.</p>	
6			<p><b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b></p> <p>To receive and approve the minutes of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> April and 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006.</p>	1 - 12
7			<p><b>CO-OPTIONS TO THE BOARD</b></p> <p>To receive a report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which seeks Members' approval for co-options to the Scrutiny Board.</p>	13 - 14

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
8			<p><b>SCRUTINY BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE</b></p> <p>To consider a report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which invites Members to note the key constitutional changes relevant to the Scrutiny arrangements.</p>	15 - 20
9			<p><b>WORK PROGRAMME</b></p> <p>To receive a report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which invites Members to agree the details of the Board's Work Programme for the forthcoming municipal year.</p>	21 - 40
10			<p><b>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2006 at 9.30 a.m. in the Civic Hall, Leeds.</p>	

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## SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE)

6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2006

**PRESENT:** Councillor Bale in the Chair  
Councillors Brett, Ewens, Hussain, Kendall,  
Murray, Renshaw and Selby

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:  
(VOTING)** Mr E A Britten – Church Representative (Catholic)  
Prof P H J H Gosden – Church Representative  
(Church of England)  
Mrs S Knights – Parent Governor Representative  
(Primary)  
Mr C Macpherson – Parent Governor  
Representative (Special)

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:  
(NON-VOTING)** Mr T Hales – Teacher Representative  
Mr P Gathercole – NCH Representative

### 125 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the April meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People).

### 126 Late Items

In accordance with his powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair admitted to the agenda a draft Scrutiny Board inquiry report entitled, 'Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres (SILCs)' for Members' approval, which had been unavailable at the time of the agenda despatch and was to be considered as part of Agenda Item 12. (Minute No 135 refers).

### 127 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Brett declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 11, due to being a Lead Member for the Neighbourhoods and Housing portfolio. (Minute No 134 refers).

Councillor Ewens and Mrs S Knights declared personal and prejudicial interests in Agenda Item 12, due to being governors of the North West Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre. (Minute No 135 refers).

Mr C Macpherson declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 12, due to his daughter being on the roll of the North West Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre from September 2006. (Minute No 135 refers).

Councillor Murray declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11, due to his involvement with a Learning Partnerships charity. (Minute No 134 refers).

The following Members declared personal interests, due to their respective positions as either school or college governors:

Councillors Bale, Ewens, Kendall, Murray, Renshaw, Selby, Mr E A Britten, Mr C Macpherson and Mrs S Knights.

Professor P H J H Gosden declared a personal interest, due to being a member of the School Organisation Committee.

**128 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors R D Feldman and Mulherin, Ms G Cooper and Ms C Foote.

**129 Minute of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2006 be approved as a correct record.

**130 Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2006 be noted.

(Councillor Hussain joined the meeting at 10.15 a.m. at the conclusion of this item)

**131 Members' Questions**

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report which afforded Scrutiny Board Members the opportunity to put questions to the Chair (or the Chair's nominee) of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

Appended to the report for Members' information was a copy of the relevant extract from the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006, together with the Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2006 and the minutes from the Children and Young People's Executive Group meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

In attendance at the meeting to answer Members' questions were Rosemary Archer, Director of Children's Services and David Dickinson, Deputy Chief Executive of Education Leeds.

In response to Members' queries relating to the lack of Elected Members on the Children and Young People's Executive Group, the Board was advised that the Executive Group did not possess any decision making powers with regard to financial issues and were informed that arrangements surrounding such groups were still to be determined as part of the requirements under the Children Act 2004. Members also noted that a report detailing such proposals was scheduled to be submitted to the Board in the new municipal year.

The Board then questioned to what extent the child's school should still be the first point of contact if a child was being bullied outside of school, bearing in mind the multi-agency approach that the Children Act 2004 sought to foster.

In response, the Board was advised that the child's school should be the first point of contact, and although all necessary mechanisms were not yet in place, in theory, an overall and comprehensive multi-agency approach should be taken to address the situation. Members also noted that schools were becoming more effective in collaborating with other agencies when tackling such problems and that the head teacher of the child's school would be encouraged to contact the schools of the perpetrators in order to fully address the situation.

### **132 Youth Service Post Ofsted Action Plan**

The Board received a report from the Head of the Youth Service which updated Members on the actions taken in response to Ofsted's recommendations following their inspection of the service in September 2004, which had led to Government Office deciding in February 2006 that no further monitoring of Leeds Youth Service was required.

Appended to the report for Members' information was a copy of the Leeds Youth Service Ofsted Action Plan.

In attendance at the meeting to answer Members' queries and questions were Maz Asghar and Neil Bowden, both of whom were Senior Youth Officers.

In response to Members' questions relating to the increased membership of the Youth Council and the existence of awards ceremonies to recognise the work with young people which was undertaken by the voluntary sector, the Senior Youth Worker undertook to provide Members with data relating to the Youth Council's membership and stated that although no awards ceremonies currently existed, such an initiative could be considered in the future.

Following Members' questions relating to the training of voluntary youth workers in certain areas of Leeds, the Board was informed that due to the length of time it had taken to complete an initial National Vocational Qualification programme, alternative training which would be accessible to the voluntary sector was being considered and was scheduled to begin in September 2006. The Senior Youth Worker then undertook to provide Members with statistics relating to the current number of workers who were fully qualified.

Having discussed issues relating to the improvement of services provided in the Roundhay Ward, the Board referred to the user survey featured in the Youth Service Ofsted Action Plan and questioned whether there was a feedback mechanism established for other agencies, such as the Police, who frequently interacted with the Youth

Service. In response, the Board was advised that although a survey of partner organisations did not currently exist and that feedback came from the Youth Work Partnership, such an initiative could be considered in the future.

With regard to detached youth workers, Members asked about examples of multi-agency detached youth work, and any sensitivities for youth workers when liaising with agencies such as the Police. In response the Board was advised that detached youth workers had been involved in multi-agency Neighbourhood Tasking Groups which had tackled hotspots across the city, and although sensitivities could exist, other agencies had been very encouraging about the role of the Youth Service in diversionary and preventative work.

A discussion relating to the involvement of the Youth Service in the Extended Schools initiative then ensued.

**RESOLVED** – That the report and information appended to the report be received and noted.

### **133 Implementing the Children Act in Leeds**

The Chief Executive submitted a report which informed Members of the revisions to the officer delegation scheme following the appointment of the Director of Children's Services, advised the Board of the legislative requirements and statutory guidance which related to the role of a Lead Member under the Children Act 2004 and the implications of decision making by individual Executive Members and which set out proposals relating to how the role of the Lead Member for Children's Services might best be supported by other Members.

Appended to the report for Members' information were copies of the revised officer delegation schemes for executive functions following the appointment of the Director of Children's Services, a copy of the revised Article 12 of the Constitution which set out the role of the Director of Adult Social Services, a set of guidance which related to the implications of decision-making by an individual Executive Member and a copy of possible revised Executive Member portfolios which set out alternatives of how the Lead Member for Children's Services may be best supported by other Members.

In attendance at the meeting to answer Members' queries and questions were Paul Rogerson, Chief Executive, Rosemary Archer, Director of Children's Services, David Dickinson, Deputy Chief Executive of Education Leeds, Stuart Turnock, Chief Legal Services Officer and Liz Davenport, Principal Corporate Governance Officer.

Having received a brief summary of the revised officer delegation schemes following the appointment of the Director of Children's Services, the Board was advised that the Children Act 2004 required the local authority to designate a Lead Member in respect of the local



authority's children's services. Although a deadline for the legal requirement to make such an appointment had not yet been set, it was considered appropriate to make such an appointment in Leeds at the annual meeting of Council, in light of the appointment of the Director of Children's Services.

The Board was then informed that although the Lead Member would be fully politically accountable for the local authority's children's services on behalf of the executive, the guidance from the Secretary of State was that arrangements could be made for the Lead Member to share aspects of their portfolio.

The Chief Executive then acknowledged that although it would be a challenge to share the responsibilities of such a role, he stated that due to the size of the portfolio, it was his intention, following discussions with relevant colleagues and Members, to recommend to the Leader of the Council, a model which would see another Executive Member appointed to support the Executive Member designated as Lead Member under the 2004 Act, whose portfolio would be defined in relation to specific functions within the Lead Member portfolio.

Having discussed the implications of individual decision making by an Executive Member and the ways in which concurrent authority would be incorporated into the model, Members made enquiries into the approach taken by other local authorities and some Board Members proposed a model which would see one Executive or Lead Member wholly responsible for the portfolio being supported by a further three non-Executive Members.

Members discussed whether two Executive Members each possessing some responsibilities with respect to children's services, might present ambiguities both internally and externally. In response, the Board was advised that although it was crucial that the adopted model provided absolute clarity with respect to ultimate political accountability, there was no reason why the Lead Member could not be supported by a subordinate Executive Member, given the size of the portfolio.

Following a discussion relating to the potential relationship which could exist between the Lead Member and the subordinate Executive Member and the implications that the adoption of the model proposed by the Chief Executive could have, Members were assured that whatever model was chosen, there would be ample opportunity to review and revise the situation at appropriate intervals in the future.

The Director of Children's Services then gave a brief presentation which related to the differences that her recent appointment would make to the way in which children's services were administered in Leeds, what her priorities as Director would be and what methods and mechanisms would be used to implement the changes required under the Children Act 2004.

It was then formally moved by Councillor Selby and seconded by Councillor Murray

That the proposals before the Board be amended to the effect that the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) recommends that at the Annual Meeting of Council, the Leader of Council appoints only one Executive Member (Children Act 2004 "Lead Member") responsible for Children's Services, to be supported by three Lead Members.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was declared lost and it was

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5 Councillor Kendall required it to be recorded that she abstained from voting on the amendment moved by Councillor Selby)

**RESOLVED –**

- (a). That the revised officer delegation scheme for executive functions, following the appointment of the Director of Children's Services, with effect from 1 March 2006, be noted;
- (b). That the consequential amendments to the constitution, in particular the revised Article 12 setting out the role of the Director of Adult Social Services, be noted;
- (c). That the advice contained within the report as to the legislative provisions in respect of the designation of a Lead Member under the Children Act 2004 be noted;
- (d). That the advice contained within the report about the implications of decision making by an individual Executive Member be noted;
- (e). That the advice contained within the report as to how the role of the Lead Member may best be supported by other Members, and in particular the proposals in respect of revised Executive Portfolios to reflect the designation of a Lead Members for Children's Services, be noted;
- (f). That the presentation from the Director of Children's Services be noted.

(Councillors Brett and Renshaw left the meeting at 12.10 p.m. at the conclusion of this item)

**134 Anti-Social Behaviour Interventions**

The Board received a report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which presented the inquiry report of the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Community Safety) on Anti-Social Behaviour Interventions.

Members stated that as there were several recommendations within the inquiry report which could potentially be investigated by the Scrutiny Board in the future, it was recommended that the Scrutiny Board's successor could give consideration to adding the issue to its

2006/2007 work programme. It was agreed that this should include consideration of the formal response to the recommendations made in the report.

**RESOLVED –**

(a). That the report and the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Community Safety) inquiry report into Anti-Social Behaviour Interventions be noted;

(b). That the Board recommend that further work into Anti-Social Behaviour Interventions be considered by the Scrutiny Board or its successor in the next municipal year.

(Councillor Ewens and Mrs S Knights left the meeting at 12.15 p.m. at the conclusion of this item)

**135 Scrutiny Board Inquiry Report – Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres (SILCs)**

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report which sought Members' approval of the final draft version of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) inquiry report into Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres (SILCs).

The Chair thanked all of those who had participated in the comprehensive piece of work and stated that he believed that in addition to striking the correct balance the report had done justice to the importance of the issue.

With regard to paragraph 3.32 of the draft report, the Board agreed to replace the word 'saddened' with the word 'alarmed'.

**RESOLVED –**

(a). That the report and information appended to the report be noted;

(b). That the Scrutiny Board inquiry report into Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres (SILCs) be approved, subject to the inclusion of the above amendment.

**136 Annual Report**

The Board received a report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which sought Members' approval of the Board's contribution towards the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) Annual Report.

Members then extended their thanks to Councillor Bale for his chairmanship of the Scrutiny Board over the last municipal year, which had seen the Board undertake a heavy and varied programme of work.

**RESOLVED –**

(a). That the report and the information appended to the report be noted;

(b). That the Board's contribution towards the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People's) Annual Report be approved.

**137 Work Programme**

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report which detailed several issues that the Scrutiny Board had suggested to be considered by the successor Scrutiny Board in the next municipal year.

Members noted that an additional meeting of the Scrutiny Board had been scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006 to finalise and approve the outstanding draft Scrutiny Board inquiry reports from the current municipal year.

**RESOLVED** – That the report and the information appended to the report be noted.

(The meeting concluded at 12.25 p.m.)

**SCRUTINY BOARD  
(CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE)**

**26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2006**

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Bale in the Chair  
Councillors Brett, Ewens, R D Feldman,  
Kendall, Mulherin, Murray and Selby

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:  
(VOTING)** Mr E A Britten – Church Representative (Catholic)  
Prof P H J H Gosden – Church Representative (Church  
of England)  
Mr R Greaves – Parent Governor Representative  
(Secondary)

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:  
(NON-VOTING)** Mr T Hales – Teacher Representative

**138 Chair's Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to an additional meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People).

**139 Late Items**

In accordance with his powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair admitted to the agenda the final draft versions of the Scrutiny Board inquiry reports into Secondary Achievement, Implementing the Children's Act in Leeds and the Recruitment, Retention and Workload of Children's Social Workers for the Board's final approval (Minute Nos 142, 143 and 144 refer respectively). All the reports had been unavailable at the time of the agenda despatch.

**140 Declarations of Interest**

The following Members declared personal interests in respect of agenda item 6, 'Scrutiny Board Inquiry Report - Secondary Achievement' due to their respective positions as either school or college governors (Minute No 142 refers):

Councillors Bale, Ewens, R D Feldman, Kendall, Mulherin, Murray, Selby, Mr E A Britten and Mr R Greaves.

Councillor Murray declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 6, 'Scrutiny Board Inquiry Report – Recruitment, Retention and Workload of Children's Social Workers', as his wife was employed to work with children in a similar capacity as was detailed within the report (Minute No 144 refers).

**141 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Ms G Cooper, Ms C Foote, Mr P Gathercole and Mr C Macpherson.

At this point in the meeting, the Chair thanked all the elected members, officers and especially co-opted members for all of their commitment and hard

work over the last municipal year which had seen the Scrutiny Board undertake a varied and substantial Work Programme.

**142 Scrutiny Board Inquiry Report – Secondary Achievement**

A report was submitted by the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which sought the Board's approval of the final draft version of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) inquiry report into Secondary Achievement.

A final draft version of the Scrutiny Board inquiry report was tabled at the meeting for Members' consideration.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a). That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b). That the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) inquiry report into Secondary Achievement be approved.

**143 Scrutiny Board Inquiry Report – Implementing the Children Act 2004 in Leeds**

The Board received a report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which sought Members' approval of the final draft version of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) inquiry report entitled, 'Implementing the Children Act 2004 in Leeds'.

A final draft version of the Scrutiny Board inquiry report was tabled at the meeting for Members' consideration.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a). That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b). That the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) inquiry report entitled, 'Implementing the Children Act 2004 in Leeds', be approved.

**144 Scrutiny Board Inquiry Report – Recruitment and Retention of Children's Social Workers**

Members received a report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which sought the Board's approval of the final draft version of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) inquiry report entitled, 'Recruitment, Retention and Workload of Children's Social Workers'.

A final draft version of the Scrutiny Board inquiry report was tabled at the meeting for Members' consideration.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a). That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b). That the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) inquiry report entitled, 'Recruitment, Retention and Workload of Children's Social Workers' be approved.

(NB Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item due to his wife being employed to work with children in a similar capacity as was detailed within the report, Councillor Murray took no part in the discussion of this item and left the room during the consideration thereof)

(The meeting concluded at 3.05 p.m.)

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Originator: Kate Arscott

Tel: 247 4189

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**Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)**

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

**Subject: Co-options to the Board**

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

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**1.0 Purpose of the report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for co-options to the Board.

**2.0 Background**

2.1 Article 6 of the Council's Constitution, which relates to scrutiny, states that in addition to elected Members appointed by Council, the relevant Scrutiny Board dealing with education matters shall include in its membership the following voting representatives in accordance with statutory requirements:

- One Church of England diocese representative
- One Roman Catholic diocese representative
- Three parent governor representatives

2.2 A relevant Scrutiny Board is a Scrutiny Board of a local education authority, where the Board's functions relate wholly or in part to any education functions which are the responsibility of the authority's Executive. If the Scrutiny Board deals with other matters, these representatives shall not vote on those other matters, though they may stay in the meeting and speak.

2.3 The Church of England and Roman Catholic dioceses have nominated Professor Gosden and Mr Britten to continue as their respective representatives.

- 2.4 The current parent governor representatives are
- Mr Cluny Macpherson (special) - term of office expires 11<sup>th</sup> January 2009
  - Mr Robert Greaves (secondary) – term of office expires 18<sup>th</sup> October 2009
  - Primary vacancy – election in progress
- 2.5 In addition, Article 6 of the Constitution allows that each Scrutiny Board shall be entitled to appoint up to five non-voting co-optees.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.6 Each Scrutiny Board may also appoint up to two non-voting co-opted Members to assist with a particular scrutiny Inquiry.
- 2.7 During 2005/2006 the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) reviewed the non-voting co-opted membership of the Board and made the following appointments:
- Two teacher representatives –Ms Celia Foote and Mr Tim Hales
  - Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership – Mrs Sandra Hutchinson
  - A representative of NCH – Mr Paul Gathercole
  - A representative of the Leeds Youth Work Partnership – Ms Georgia Cooper
- 2.8 In making these appointments, Members were keen to ensure coverage of each of the major service areas within children’s services.
- 2.9 An alternative approach was considered at the time, which was to invite one or more nominations from the Leeds VOICE Children and Young People Services Forum. Members are asked to consider whether this alternative approach should be adopted for the coming municipal year.
- 2.10 The Leeds VOICE Children and Young People Services Forum is a representative forum for around 500 local voluntary, community and faith organisations. It was established in May 2003 to enable the voluntary, community and faith sector to contribute to the development of service planning for children and young people through
- Representation on strategic groups both locally and citywide
  - Consultation with organisations, children and young people
  - Communicating up to date news, sharing good practice and signposting support and advice
- The Forum is represented on Children Leeds and each of the wedge based Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership groups.
- 2.11 If the Scrutiny Board were to invite one or more nominations from the Children and Young People Services Forum these would be generic representatives, who would be expected to reflect views across the range of voluntary, community and faith group services to children and young people.
- 2.12 Mr Gathercole is currently a member of the Children and Young People Services Forum.

### **3.0 Recommendation**

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider co-options to the Board for the coming year.

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<sup>1</sup> Co-option would normally only be appropriate where the co-opted Member has some specialist skill or knowledge which would be of assistance to the Board.



Originator: Kate Arscott

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**Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)**

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

**Subject: Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference**

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

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**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Full Council on 22nd May 2006 agreed to a number of changes to the manner in which Scrutiny Boards operate. A number of these changes were operational, relating to the formulation of final reports, the chairing of Scrutiny Commissions and the membership of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC). Other changes agreed were more substantial and related to Scrutiny Board portfolios.
- 1.2 Previously Scrutiny Boards were aligned to the Strategic Outcomes within the Council's Corporate Plan. Full Council has now agreed that Scrutiny Boards are to be aligned to Executive Member portfolios.
- 1.3 The following Scrutiny Boards will therefore exist
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee
  - Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)
  - Scrutiny Board (Health and Adult Services)
  - Scrutiny Board (Neighbourhoods and Housing)
  - Scrutiny Board (City Services)
  - Scrutiny Board (Leisure)
  - Scrutiny Board (Development)
- 1.4 Appendix 1 details the remit of the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) and the respective Executive Board Member responsibilities. The terms of reference for this Board are shown as Appendix 2.

## **Other Constitutional Changes**

- 1.5 Council has agreed that OSC will retain the facility to establish a Commission to be chaired by any member of OSC. There are no named Commission Chairs.
- 1.6 There is now a requirement for Directors to consult with the appropriate Executive Board Member when commenting on or responding to Scrutiny Board recommendations. Appendix 3 shows in the form of a flow diagram the process for agreeing final reports.
- 1.7 There is no longer the requirement that all requests for Scrutiny are considered by OSC. These can now be considered by the appropriate Scrutiny Board.

## **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Members note the key constitutional changes relevant to the Scrutiny arrangements.

## Scrutiny Alignment with Executive Member Portfolios

SCRUTINY BOARD	EXECUTIVE MEMBER	DECISION MAKING OVERVIEW	POLICY DEVELOPMENT AREAS
Children's Services	<b>Children's Services Lead Executive Member</b> Cllr Richard Brett Liberal Democrat Group	Director of Children's Services; Director of Learning and Leisure <sup>1</sup> and the Chief Social Services Officer <sup>2</sup> (in so far as functions relate to children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• functions of the authority in its role as children's services authority (including arrangements to promote co-operation to improve the well-being of children);</li> <li>• social services functions so far as they relate to children (and young people leaving care);</li> <li>• health services – functions exercisable on behalf of an NHS body so far as they relate to children;</li> <li>• functions of the authority as LEA</li> </ul>
	<b>Children's Services Support Executive Member</b> Cllr Richard Harker Liberal Democrat Group	Director of Children's Services and Director of Learning and Leisure (functions pertaining to early years, education and youth services) <sup>3</sup>	

<sup>1</sup> Functions (b) and (g) of the officer delegation to the Director of Learning and Leisure

<sup>2</sup> Function (a), and functions (b), (c) and (d) of the officer delegation to the Chief Social Services Officer, so far as they relate to children.

<sup>3</sup> Function (d) of the officer delegation to the Director of Children's Services, and functions (b) and (g) of the officer delegation to the Director of Learning and Leisure

## Council Committees' Terms of Reference

### Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

1. In relation to **Children's Services**<sup>1</sup>, to exercise the functions of a Scrutiny Board including the following:
  - (a) to review or scrutinise the exercise of any Council or Executive function, or any other related matter<sup>2</sup>;
  - (b) to make reports or recommendations to Council or the Executive in connection with the exercise of any functions of the Council or the Executive including proposals for changes to policies and practices;
  - (c) to receive and review external audit and inspection reports;
  - (d) to act as the appropriate Scrutiny Board<sup>3</sup> in relation to the Executive's initial proposals for a plan or strategy within the Budget and Policy Framework; and
  - (e) to review corporate performance indicators and to make such reports and recommendations as it considers appropriate.
  
2. To receive and monitor formal responses to any reports or recommendations made by the Board.

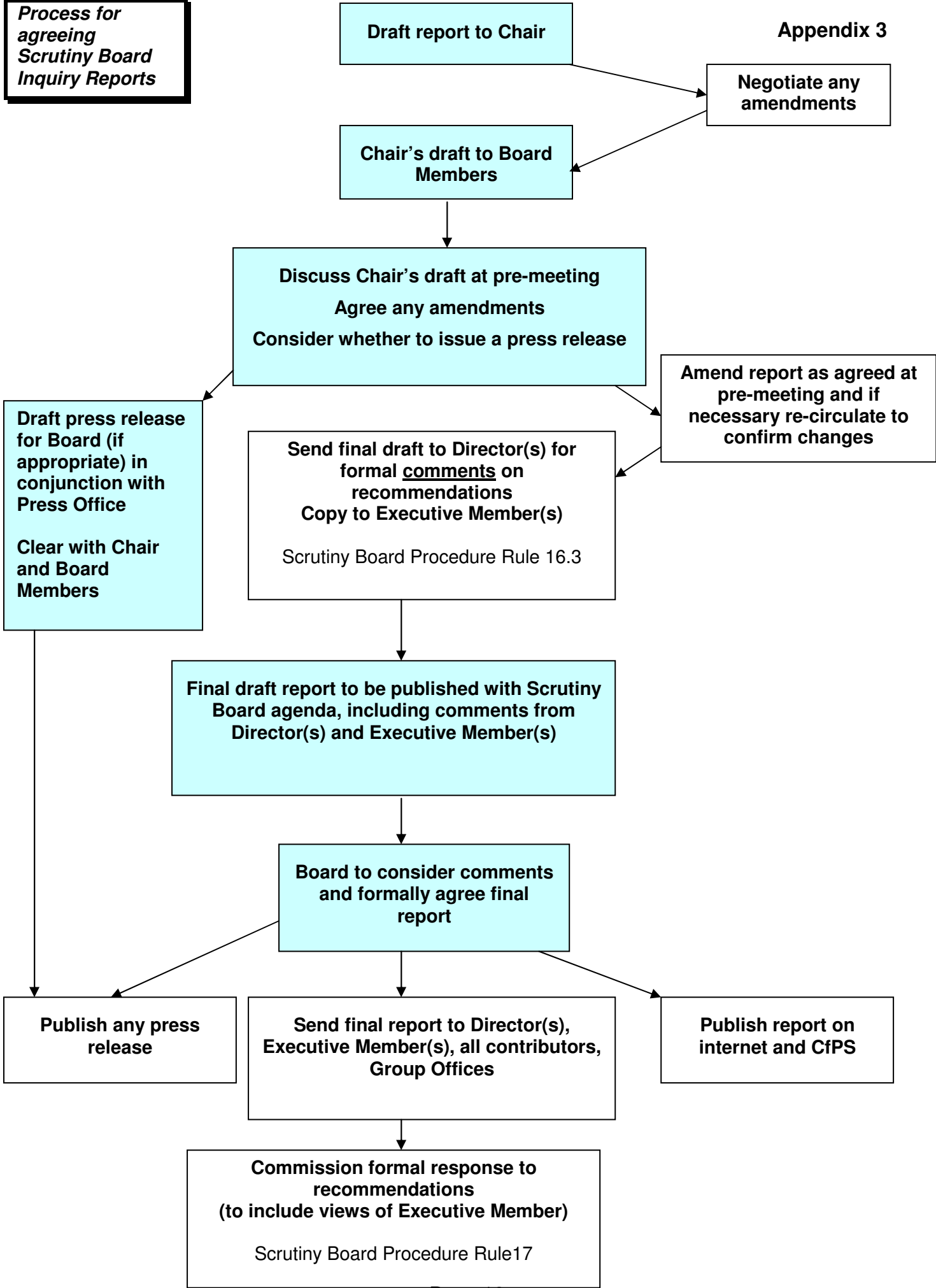
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<sup>1</sup> within the Lead and Support Executive Member portfolios for Children's Services and such other relevant (Council Function) delegations to officers but excluding those matters assigned to the Scrutiny Board (Health and Adult Services) under the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) 2002 as amended.

<sup>2</sup>including matters pertaining to outside bodies to which appointments have been made by the Council,

<sup>3</sup> under the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules

**Process for agreeing Scrutiny Board Inquiry Reports**



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Originator: Kate Arscott

Tel: 247 4189

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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Subject: Work Programme

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

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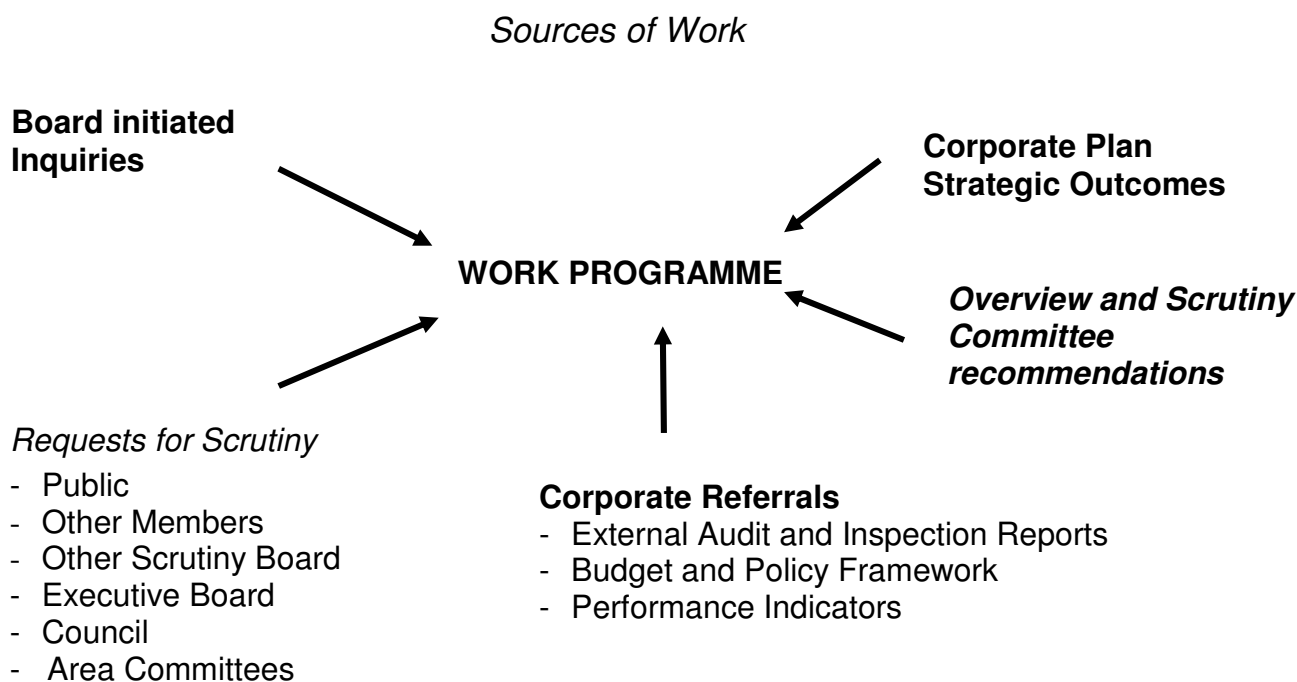
## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report proposes guidelines for the development of a work programme for this Scrutiny Board.
- 1.2 Members will be aware that Scrutiny Boards are now aligned to Executive Board portfolios. For this Board, the remit includes the responsibilities within the portfolio of the Executive Board Lead Member and Support Member for Children's Services . These areas of responsibility are identified in **appendix 1**.
- 1.3 Whilst the remit of the Board is aligned to Executive Board Member responsibilities, Members will be aware that the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) for the Council has highlighted the need to focus on the corporate priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan.

## 2.0 Work Programme

- 2.1 Scrutiny Boards perform a number of roles. These include:
  - holding the Executive to account including the review of executive decisions;
  - review and development of policy;
  - performance monitoring and review in relation to the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2005/08 and Council Plan;
  - undertaking tasks as determined within the Council's Constitution;
  - evaluating and monitoring initiatives and pilot work.

- 2.2 The development of a manageable work programme enables Members to undertake:
- Effective planning of the Board’s time and workload;
  - The identification of priorities for inquiry, based on the Corporate Plan 2005/08 priorities;
  - The allocation of financial and human resources to support the Board;
  - Planning of evidence from Councillors, Officers and potential external witnesses allowing the provision of written submissions in advance where required;
  - Informing the public in advance of the Board’s proposed activities, thereby enhancing their ability to participate.
- 2.3 Scrutiny Board work comes from a number of different sources:



- 2.4 These different elements will require forward planning and the Board will need to consider giving priority to the Corporate Plan 2005/08 strategic outcomes. The Board will also need to create a manageable workload. Over the last few years of Scrutiny Board work, experience has shown that the process is more effective if the Board seeks to minimise the number of substantial inquiries running at one time. Overview and Scrutiny Committee advice is that the Board considers the benefits of single item agendas (excluding miscellaneous information and minutes) in order to focus on all the relevant evidence and complete the inquiry in a shorter period of time. There are various mechanisms available to assist the Board in concluding inquiries quickly whilst the issues are pertinent, such as working groups and site visits.
- 2.5 Previous experience has shown that the majority of work is initiated by the Board itself and given that there will be a number of competing demands, this work needs to be carefully selected in order to reflect the priorities associated with the relevant strategic outcome within the Corporate Plan 2005/08 and Council Plan to ensure the Council is achieving those stated aims.

- 2.6 At the end of the last municipal year, a number of Boards suggested 'carry over' items for consideration by the relevant Board this year. These are included on the draft work programme at appendix 2 under 'unscheduled items'. The Board may either agree to plan these into the year's work, or prioritise other areas for scrutiny.
- 2.7 Also attached to this report are the current Forward Plan of Key Decisions (appendix 3) and the most recent minutes of the Council's Executive Board (appendix 4) and the Executive of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (appendix 5), which will give Members an overview of current executive activity within the Board's portfolio area.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

- 2.8 The Board should also be aware that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to undertake inquiries into matters which fall within the remit of more than one Scrutiny Board.
- 2.9 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may from time to time also recommend Inquiry subjects to relevant Boards, which should be taken into account when the Board discusses its work programming.

### **Work programming**

- 2.10 The Director of Children's Services, Chief Executive of Education Leeds and the Executive Members for Children's Services have been invited to attend this meeting of the Board to contribute to discussions about the Board's work programme.
- 2.11 Following those discussions, it is suggested that the Board agrees an outline work programme that prioritises the issues to be investigated. The work programme would need, in accordance with the protocols, to fairly reflect minority party concerns.

## **3.0 Recommendation**

- 3.1 Members are requested to agree the details of the Board's work programme.

**EXECUTIVE MEMBERS****OVERVIEW OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

POST	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY
<b>Lead Executive Member for Children's Services</b>	<p>To have overall political oversight for the following principal areas of Council activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• functions of the authority in its role as children's services authority (including arrangements to promote co-operation to improve the well-being of children);</li> <li>• social services functions so far as they relate to children (and young people leaving care);</li> <li>• health services – functions exercisable on behalf of an NHS body so far as they relate to children;</li> <li>• functions of the authority as LEA</li> </ul> <p>To represent the Council on key inter-sector and inter-authority partnerships.</p>
<b>Support Executive Member for Children's Services</b>	<p>To have political oversight for the following principal areas of Council activity on behalf of the Children's Services Lead Executive Member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School-based learning</li> <li>• Early years development and child care planning</li> <li>• Youth services</li> </ul> <p>To represent the Children's Services Lead Executive Member on appropriate inter-sector and inter-authority partnerships.</p>

Item	Description	Notes
<b>Possible items for 2006/07 work programme</b>		
<b>Adoption</b>	To consider conducting a formal Inquiry into the adoption of looked after children.	This follows discussions at the previous Board's February 2006 meeting in response to the report of the Director of Social Services and the Chief Executive of Education Leeds on 'Monitoring Support to Children in Care'. The Board were concerned that performance with regard to the adoption performance indicator had deteriorated since 2001.
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour Interventions</b>	To consider carrying out further work in relation to preventative work with children and young people	Following an Inquiry last year by the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Community Safety), the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) identified this as a potential area of further work, but agreed to await the department's formal response to the scrutiny recommendations before making a final decision.
<b>Scrutiny by Children and Young People</b>	To consider proposals for children and young people to carry out scrutiny activity	Last year members of the Youth Council carried out a scrutiny inquiry into fair-trade in schools. It was agreed that there should be further opportunities for children and young people to be directly involved in scrutiny.
<b>Transition from Primary to Secondary School</b>	To receive further information in relation to the work of the Transfer Consultants	The Board indicated an ongoing interest in the progress of this work.

**Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) – Draft Work Programme 2006/07**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Meeting date: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2006 - The deadline for reports for this meeting is 10.00am on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June</b>		
<b>Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres (SILCs) Inquiry</b>	To receive the formal response to the final inquiry report	The Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) published an Inquiry report on 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2006
<b>Implementing the Children Act 2004 in Leeds</b>	To receive the formal response to the final inquiry report, and additional information arising from the interim inquiry report	The Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) published an Inquiry report on 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2006
<b>Secondary Achievement</b>	To receive the formal response to the final inquiry report	The Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) published an Inquiry report on 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2006
<b>Recruitment, Retention and Workload of Children's Social Workers</b>	To receive the formal response to the final inquiry report	The Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) published an Inquiry report on 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2006
<b>Looked After Children</b>	To consider performance information in relation to the Council's services to looked after children	A framework was agreed by the previous Scrutiny Board on 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2005. It was envisaged this would take place as early as possible in the new municipal year.
<b>Meeting date: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2006 - The deadline for reports for this meeting is 10.00am on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August</b>		
<b>Meeting date: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2006 - The deadline for reports for this meeting is 10.00am on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b>		

**Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) – Draft Work Programme 2006/07**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Meeting date: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006 - The deadline for reports for this meeting is 10.00am on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>		
<b>Meeting date: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006 - The deadline for reports for this meeting is 10.00am on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>		
<b>Meeting date: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2007 - The deadline for reports for this meeting is 10.00am on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
<b>Meeting date: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007 - The deadline for reports for this meeting is 10.00am on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>		
<b>Meeting date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007 - The deadline for reports for this meeting is 10.00am on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
<b>Meeting date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007 - The deadline for reports for this meeting is 10.00am on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>		
<b>Annual Report</b>	To agree the Board's contribution to the annual scrutiny report	

**LEEDS CITY COUNCIL****FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS****EXTRACT RELATING TO THE SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)**For the period 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006 to 30th September 2006

<b>Key Decisions</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>Documents to be Considered by Decision Maker</b>	<b>Lead Officer (To whom representations should be made)</b>
Schools Devolved Formula Capital Budgets – to seek approval to carry out capital works and incur expenditure at Leeds schools, to be funded by Devolved Formula Capital grant.	Director of Corporate Services	1/06/06	With schools before grant is spent	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Chief Executive of Education Leeds
Major Refurbishment and General Building Works 2006/07- Authority to incur £2,000,000 of expenditure in respect of the Major Refurbishment and General Building Works programme	Director of Corporate Services	1/06/06	The relevant schools will be consulted on their refurbishment	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Chief Executive of Education Leeds
Schools Capital Investment Partnership 2006/07 – to seek approval to carry out capital works and incur expenditure in respect of the 2006/07 Schools Capital Investment Partnership Programme	Director of Corporate Services	1/06/06	With schools to put in bids for funding	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Chief Executive of Education Leeds
Review of Primary Provision in Meanwood Primary Planning Area – To seek agreement on the way forward for primary provision in the Meanwood area and any relevant statutory processes	Executive Board (Portfolio: Learning)	14/06/06	Public consultation Summer 2005	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Chief Executive of Education Leeds



<b>Key Decisions</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>Documents to be Considered by Decision Maker</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b> (To whom representations should be made)
Review of Primary Provision in Horsforth Primary Planning Area- to seek agreement on the way forward for primary provision in the Horsforth area and any relevant statutory processes.	Executive Board (Portfolio: Learning)	14/06/06	Informal consultation	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Chief Executive of Education Leads
Strategy for Planning Primary School Places – To seek approval of the Strategy for Planning Primary School Places	Executive Board (Portfolio: Learning)	14/06/06		The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Chief Executive of Education Leads
The former Royal Park Primary School- to note the outcome of the work undertaken to investigate the viability of implementing proposals considered at November 2003 Executive Board meeting, and to seek approval for proposals in respect of marketing the property against a brief requiring the inclusion of community elements and on the premise the Council will retain long term control of the property by granting a long leasehold interest	Executive Board (Portfolio: Development)	14/06/06	Ward Members and Area Management Committee	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Director of Development
Review of Primary Provision in Boston Spa Primary Planning Area- seeking agreement on the way forward for primary provision in the Boston Spa area and any relevant statutory processes.	Executive Board (Portfolio: Learning)	5/7/06	Informal consultation	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Chief Executive of Education Leads

<b>Key Decisions</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>Documents to be Considered by Decision Maker</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b> (To whom representations should be made)
Review of Primary Provision in Alwoodley Primary Planning Area- To seek agreement on the way forward for structure of primary provision in Alwoodley and any relevant statutory processes.	Executive Board (Portfolio: Learning)	5/7/06	Formal consultation Autumn 2005	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Chief Executive of Education Leeds
Otley Prince Henry's Grammar School – To seek approval to inject a capital receipt generated from the proposed sale of the former Newall Primary School into the Capital Programme and to incur expenditure in respect of capital investment at Otley Prince Henry's Grammar School.	Executive Board (Portfolio: Learning)	5/7/06	Consultation ongoing with DfES	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Chief Executive of Education Leeds
East Garforth Primary School – To seek approval to the ring fencing of a capital receipt generated from the sale of an area of surplus school land. Approval will also be sought to inject the capital receipt into the capital programme and to incur expenditure in respect of the construction of a new nursery, changing rooms, and an office link between the existing school buildings, and to carry out improvements to the school playing fields at East Garforth Primary School.	Executive Board (Portfolio: Learning)	5/7/06	Consultation ongoing with DfES	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Chief Executive of Education Leeds

<b>Key Decisions</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>Documents to be Considered by Decision Maker</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b> (To whom representations should be made)
Review of Primary Provision in Richmond Hill Primary Planning Area – Agreement on the way forward for primary provision in the Richmond Hill area and any relevant statutory processes	Executive Board (Portfolio: Learning)	5/7/06		The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Chief Executive of Education Leeds

## NOTES

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Key decisions are those executive decisions:

- which result in the authority incurring expenditure or making savings over £500,000 per annum, or
- are likely to have a significant effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards

In cases where Key Decisions to be taken by the Executive are not included in this Plan, 5 days notice of the intention to take such decisions will be given by way of the Agenda for the Executive Board meeting.

### Executive Board Portfolios

Central and Corporate  
Development  
City Services  
Neighbourhoods and Housing  
Leisure  
Learning  
Children's Services  
Social Care and Health  
Narrowing the Gap  
Leader of the Labour Group  
Advisory Member

### Executive Member

Councillor Mark Harris  
Councillor Andrew Carter  
Councillor Steve Smith  
Councillor John Leslie Carter  
Councillor John Procter  
Councillor Richard Harker  
Councillor Brian Jennings  
Councillor Peter Harrand  
Councillor David Blackburn  
Councillor Keith Wakefield  
Councillor Judith Blake

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD

17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006

**PRESENT:** Councillor A Carter in the Chair  
Councillors D Blackburn, J L Carter, Harrand,  
Harris, J Procter, Smith and Wakefield

Councillor Blake – Non-Voting Advisory Member

**267 Substitute Member**

Under the terms of Executive Procedure Rule 2.3 Councillor Bentley was invited to attend the meeting on behalf of Councillor Harker.

**268 Exclusion of the Public**

**RESOLVED** – That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of appendix 1 to the report referred to in minute 277, during consideration of appendix 3 to the report referred to in minute 271 and during consideration of appendix 4 of the report referred to in minute 284 on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt or confidential information, defined in Access to Procedure Rules as indicated in the minutes.

**269 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Blackburn indicated his intention to leave the room during the discussion on the item relating to the sale of land at Elmwood Road, Leeds 2 (minute 277) in order to avoid any perception of predetermination at such time as the matter may be considered by the Plans Panel (City Centre) of which he was a member.

Councillor J L Carter declared a personal interest in the item relating to Re'new – Expenditure of Reserves (minute 283) as Chair of the Re'new Board.

Councillor A Carter declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item relating to Combined Secondary Schools PFI (Minute 290) as a director of a company which may tender for works under the scheme.

A further declaration of interest made during the meeting is referred to in minute 287 (Councillor D Blackburn)

### **LEISURE**

**270 Deputation to Council – The Friends of Woodhouse Moor**

The Director of Learning and Leisure submitted a report in response to the above deputation which attended Council on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006 with regard to car parking proposals on Monument Moor

A supplementary report on the outcome of consultations on the proposal was circulated at the meeting

**RESOLVED** – That the proposal to establish a car park on Monument Moor be withdrawn.

## **NEIGHBOURHOODS AND HOUSING**

### **271 Little London Housing PFI – Outline Business Case**

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report on proposals for a Regeneration Plan for Little London, for the Outline Business Case for the Little London PFI scheme and for approval in principle for the disposal of the development sites identified on the plan at appendix 1 to the report and of Lovell Park Grange, Heights and Towers and the application of the Capital Receipts from such disposals to the Comprehensive Regeneration Scheme. The Director indicated that reference in the report to the refurbishment of 912 Council homes was incorrect and that it should refer to 922 Council homes

The report presented an appraisal of the following four options for funding and delivery of any improvements:

- (a) ALMO option via Leeds North West Homes using Supplementary Credit Approvals
- (b) PFI and complementary Development Agreements with the private sector
- (c) Stock transfer
- (d) Joint venture

Following consideration of appendix 3 to the report designated as exempt/confidential under Access to Information Procedure Rules 10.4(3) and 10.2(a), which was considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting it was

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That approval be given to proceed with the Comprehensive Regeneration Option, delivered through a Private Finance Initiative Contract and associated Development Agreements, as outlined in the report, as part of the Regeneration Plan for Little London
- (b) That approval be given to the Outline Business Case for the comprehensive regeneration of Little London, the scope of which was described in the report, including the affordability envelope and Council contributions outlined at appendix 3 and the application of Capital Receipts from the disposal of the development sites and from Lovell Park Grange, Court and Towers (as identified at Appendix 1) to the scheme

### **272 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2006 be approved.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

### **273 Burley Road Integrated Transport Corridor**

The Director of Development submitted a report on the proposed implementation of a scheme to provide a new outbound bus and cycle lane on Burley Road and to improve the junction of Burley Road with Cardigan Road as part of the Local Transport Plan programme.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the Burley Road Integrated Transport Corridor proposal as shown on drawing number HDC/701093/C01 at an estimated cost of £3,925,000 be approved
- (b) That approval be given to expenditure of £3,215,000 comprising £2,935,000 works costs and a further £280,000 staff costs to complete the scheme design.
- (c) That the previous approval of staff costs of £335,000 be noted
- (d) That the contribution from a developer of £150,000 works costs and £30,000 staff costs for highway works associated with a S278 Agreement be noted
- (e) That the contribution from the 2007/08 Highway Maintenance budget of £190,000 be noted
- (f) That the Board notes that a separate report to Joint Highways Board has been approved giving authority to prepare draft Traffic Regulation Orders incurring staff costs of £5,000

### **274 Report on Progress of Water Asset Management Group**

The Director of Development submitted a report on the development and implementation of detailed proposals by the Water Asset Management Working Group in response to major flooding incidents in Leeds in 2004/05

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the work and progress of the Water Asset Management Working Group to date be noted and that its ongoing work programme, from which further recommendations with budgetary implications may arise, be supported
- (b) That the Policy Statement 'Maintaining Water Resources and Responding to Flood Incidents', attached to the submitted report, be approved.

### **275 Fearn Island Mills Affordable Housing**

The Director of Development submitted a report on proposed expenditure of section 106 monies on an affordable housing subsidy at a housing scheme at Timblebeck, Fearn Island Mills, in the city centre which will enable Yorkshire Housing Association to acquire 9 two bedroom flats from the developer for affordable home purchase by households in need

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That approval be given to the injection of £605,000 S106 money into the Capital Programme to fund the grant for affordable housing and legal costs, as outlined in the submitted report
- (b) That authority be given to spend £605,000 S106 money on the scheme.

**276 Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change**

The Director of Development submitted a report on the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change proposing that it be signed by the Leader of Council and Chief Executive as proposed by Council resolution in November 2005.

**RESOLVED –** That the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive sign the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, as proposed by the Council resolution on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005.

**277 Elmwood Road, Leeds 2**

The Director of Development submitted a report on the position in relation to the sale of land at Elmwood Road following its marketing, the subsequent receipt of best and final offers and the shortlisting of four parties requested to submit final offers and schemes for consideration.

Following consideration of appendix 1 to the report designated as exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3), which was circulated and considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting, it was

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the conditional offer made by Castlemore Securities Limited, also supported by the most brief compliant scheme, be accepted.
- (b) That the remaining offers be rejected

**CITY SERVICES**

**278 St George House Cooling System**

The Director of City Services submitted a report on a proposed injection of £316,000 into the Capital Programme for expenditure on the installation of a permanent cooling system at St George House.

**RESOLVED –** That approval be given to the injection of £316,000 into the Capital Programme and that expenditure in the same amount be authorised.

**279 Deputation to Council – Leeds Road Residents Action Group**

The Director of City Services and Director of Development submitted a joint report in response to the deputation to Council from the Leeds Road Residents' Action Group

In presenting the report the Executive Member (City Services) referred to a document detailing accident statistics on the road and advised that this would



subsequently be provided to all Board members and added to the meeting documents on the internet.

**RESOLVED** – That the concerns of the Leeds Road Residents’ Action Group and the response of the officers of the Development and City Services Departments be noted and that the document introduced by the Executive Member (City Services) be added as an appendix to the report.

## **NEIGHBOURHOODS AND HOUSING**

### **280 Area Delivery Plans 2006/07**

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report presenting the proposed ten Area Committee Action Plans for 2006/07 and providing an overview of the Area Delivery Plans for 2006/07 that were agreed by the Area Committees.

**RESOLVED** – That the ten Area Action Plans for 2006/07 be endorsed.

### **281 Allocation of Regional Housing Board Funding in Beeston Hill and Holbeck**

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report on the Housing Market Renewal Fund’s allocation of funding to support regeneration targeted at Beeston Hill and Holbeck, and on the proposed commencement of the acquisition of properties within Holbeck.

The report detailed three options in relation to the allocation of a proportion of the funding. The first related to the Garnets area at the rear of Dewsbury Road district centre, the second to the acquisition and demolition of properties in the Holbeck area specifically targeting an area with type 2 back to back properties and the third to the remodelling of the Pleasants area of Holbeck.

**RESOLVED** -That approval be given to the allocation of £2.8 million to option 2, to commence the acquisition of properties within the densely terraced housing area of Holbeck.

### **282 Intensive Neighbourhood Management**

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report on the Intensive Neighbourhood Management programme targeted at the City’s most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and on the proposed injection of £2.1 million capital grant into the approved capital programme for a programme of work to improve public spaces in target neighbourhoods subject to consultation with local stakeholders

**RESOLVED** –

- (a) That the injection into the capital programme of £2.1 million Safer, Cleaner and Greener capital grant be approved
- (b) That the proposed programme of work to deliver cleaner, safer and greener public spaces in target neighbourhoods, subject to consultation with local stakeholders, be noted.

- (c) That reports to this Board should, as a matter of course, be clear as to the input of elected members by consultation or other means.

### **283 Re'new – Expenditure of Reserves**

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report on the background to reserves held by Re'new, on proposed parameters for spending the reserves and on a draft programme of work to be funded by the reserves.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That approval be given to the approach outlined in the report to the use of Re'new reserves arising from the land sales within the SRB Round 2 scheme.
- (b) That the proposed expenditure for the development of a new office base for Re'new be the subject of a further report to this Board before proceeding.

### **284 Regeneration of Cross Green Grove and Cross Green Avenue**

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report on the options for regeneration of the Cross Green area and seeking approval for the acquisition and clearance of 21 properties within Cross Green

The report presented an appraisal of the following three options:

- (a) Do minimum to meet legal conformity
- (b) Group repair and internal remodelling
- (c) Acquisition and redevelopment of the site

Following consideration of appendix 4 to the report designated as exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3), which was considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting, it was

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That approval be given to the injection into the Capital Programme of £0.5 million of Regional Housing Board money
- (b) That scheme expenditure to the amount of £0.5 million be authorised
- (c) That officers be authorised to commence acquisition of properties by voluntary agreement with the owners and in the event that agreement cannot be reached with the owner of any property within the target area for its acquisition, officers be authorised to make and promote any necessary Compulsory Purchase Orders

#### **LEARNING**

### **285 Horsforth West End Primary School – Outcome of Consultations**

The Chief Executive of Education Leeds submitted a report on the recent consultation process on the proposed closure of resourced provision for deaf children at Horsforth West End Primary School and on the proposal to publish a statutory notice for the removal of the resourced provision for deaf children at the school.

**RESOLVED** – That approval be given for the publication of a Statutory Notice for the removal of the resourced provision for deaf children at Horsforth West End Primary School from a date to be notified to members of this Board prior to publication of the Statutory Notice.

**286 School and Children’s Centre Designation**

The Director of Learning and Leisure submitted a report on proposals to formally change the age range for which education services are provided in four primary schools in order to facilitate the delivery of children’s centre and extended services on these sites

**RESOLVED** – That approval be given for the publication of statutory notices to change the age range for the following primary schools: Hawksworth Wood, Middleton, Windmill and Little London from 3 to 11 years of age to 4 to 11 years of age with an on site children’s centre for children aged 0 to 4.

**LEISURE**

**287 Governance Arrangements of the Leeds Grand Theatre and Opera House Ltd**

The Director of Learning and Leisure and Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a joint report on a proposed fundamental review of governance arrangements for Leeds Grand Theatre and Opera House Ltd to ensure that they are fit for purpose

**RESOLVED** –

- (a) That the terms of reference for reviewing the governance arrangements for Leeds Grand Theatre and Opera House, as attached to the report, be approved
- (b) That a report be brought back to this Board to enable any changes to existing arrangements to be in place by the re-opening of the Leeds Grand Theatre in October 2006
- (c) That the Member Management Committee be recommended, in the interim, to reserve appointments to the Leeds Grand Theatre Board to Members of the Executive Board

(Councillor Blackburn declared a personal interest in this item as a member of the Grand Theatre Board)

**CHILDREN’S SERVICES**

**288 Implementing the Children Act 2004 in Leeds – Update**

The Director of Children’s Services submitted a report on developments nationally and locally on the Children Act 2004

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted

**289 Vacation and Occupation of Chair**

Councillor A Carter having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the final item of business under minute 269 vacated the Chair and left the meeting.

Councillor Harris assumed the Chair.

**290 Combined Secondary Schools PFI**

The Chief Executive of Education Leeds submitted a report detailing the latest expenditure and resources position in respect of the combined secondary schools PFI project

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report be noted and approval given to the proposed changes to the scope of the project
- (b) That approval be given to the injection of £2.274 million to the project, to such injection being met from the proceeds arising from the disposal of the surplus school sites and that authority be given for expenditure of this additional funding

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006  
LAST DATE FOR CALL IN: 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006 (5.00 PM)

(Scrutiny Support will notify relevant Directors of any items called in by 12.00 noon on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006)