

Education Scrutiny Committee Ofsted Framework Select Committee

6 January 2014

1:00pm – 2:00pm

County Hall, Meeting Room 1.1

Attendees

Councillors: Cllr Mark Gray, Cllr John Howson, Cllr Gill Sanders, Cllr Michael Waine (Chairman)

CEO Officers: Andreea Anastasiu (notes)

Apologies

Liz Smith, Sue Matthews

Papers

- Select Committee Proposal (Cllr Michael Waine)

Minutes

1. Recommendations to the Education Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman outlined his vision as regards the purpose and remit of the Select Committee (see Appendix 1 – Select Committee Proposal).

Recommendations:

1. That the Select Committee should be the whole of the Education Scrutiny Committee so that the outcomes carry the full authority of the Committee.
2. That the members of the current 'Select Committee group' form a Steering Group to lead the organisation of the full meeting of the Select Committee.
3. That the work of the Select Committee could be an on-going, long-term effort.
4. The Chairman suggested narrowing down the area of focus of the Select Committee. The proposed area was that of School Self Evaluation (SEF), or equivalent document, and how this is put into action. The starting point of this approach will be to gather the evidence base. The emphasis of the meeting will be on a genuine interest in learning from the schools' experience with SEF and sharing best practice, whilst gaining the expectations of the LA and Ofsted. The meeting of the Select Committee will also send a message that the Education Scrutiny Committee is committed to playing an active role in improving education in the county alongside the Cabinet Member and Officers.
5. That having an Ofsted representative at the meeting would allow for a discussion with Ofsted as to what role LAs are expected to play in education and how much attention Academies are meant to pay to LAs in terms of improving outcomes and sharing best practice.
6. Schools will be invited to present how they view the SEF and the importance they place on it and they make it work for them in bringing about change/improvement. This will constitute the evidence base of how SEF is working and offer good practice.

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7. It is envisaged that the meeting will last for 3 hours, allowing around 30 – 40 minutes for each of the people before the Committee (5-6 questions addressed by a lead and a second lead questioners).
8. At the 6 February 2014 meeting of the Education Scrutiny Committee, the Chairman will ask for volunteers to be lead questioners and/or second leads to ask the follow up questions. Ample time will be given for other members to ask questions.
9. It was proposed that the meeting is held in late February or March, depending on the availability of the people/groups invited before the Committee.
10. The findings of the Select Committee will be presented in a full report which will help share best practice and disseminate information.

Subject to agreement at Education Scrutiny Committee:

Action: CEF to recommend a number of schools for the committee to select from to be invited before the committee. Members agreed that the key criteria in selecting the schools will be selecting schools with a catchment area that has challenges within it. It is preferable that one of the schools is an Academy.

2. Date of next meeting

Should the proposals above be accepted by the Education Scrutiny Committee, a further meeting date will be set.

The meeting closed at 2:00pm.

**Education Scrutiny Committee
Ofsted Framework Select Committee**

Appendix 1

OCC Education Scrutiny Committee

Select Committee Proposal

Following the meeting of the Education Scrutiny Committee in mid-November it is now suggested that the area for question and challenge should be confined to an aspect of a potential OFSTED Inspection of the LA. The suggested area is that of School Self Evaluation as represented in a school's SEF. The aim of the committee would be to find out what makes a good SEF, but more importantly, how a good SEF is put to positive effect bringing about the necessary change. It is suggested that we start with our Secondary Schools/Academies.

Suggested people/groups to call before the committee could include:

Headteacher & Chair of Governors of a school in Special Measures judged by HMI as improving

Headteacher & Chair of Governors of an outstanding school

Regional Director of Ofsted

Deputy Director & Cabinet Member

It is also suggested that the Select Committee should be the whole of the Education Scrutiny Committee so that the outcomes carry the full authority of the Committee.