

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Scrutiny Sub-Committee for Developing Lifelong Learning held at the County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 4 January 2007** at **9.30 a.m.**

Present

Councillor G Porter in the Chair

Councillors Coates, Ebbatson, N Foster, Gray, Holroyd, Magee, Manton, Meir, Robinson, Simmons, Tennant, Wade and Williams.

Other Members:

Councillors Cox, Mason, O'Donnell and Priestley.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barker and Ord.

A1 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

A2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

A3 Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items raised

A4 Outline Business Case for Building Schools for the Future

The Sub-Committee received a verbal update from Graham Johnson, BSF Programme Manager, which gave an update on the outline business case for Building Schools for the Future.

The outline Business Case, which was approximately 70% completed, needed to be submitted to the DfES by 26 January 2007, and would be submitted to the BSF Project Board on 25 January 2007.

The Strategic Business Case for Durham County Council was completed and a more detailed Business Case for each school was to be produced. The verification process at the DfES took approximately 8-10 weeks. The report would be submitted to the DfES as a provisional report and could be subsequently amended if it needed to be. The document would contain what schools are aiming to achieve, the cost parameters and how this fits into overall educational targets in Durham. A finalised version of the document would be brought to the Sub-Committee at its March meeting, although it would not have been approved by the DfES Project Approval Group by that time.

Although the exact level of finance was not known, as this was dependent on a number of factors, there was between £92m – £95m available for 8 schools.

A5 Performance Update for 2nd Quarter of 2006/07

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Head of Corporate Policy which provided a performance update for the 2nd quarter of 2006 for the authority's corporate priorities, Best Value Performance Indicators and Public Library Service Standards relevant to the Corporate Aim of Developing Lifelong Learning (for copy see file of Minutes)

Resolved:

That the report be noted, and that subsequent quarterly performance progress reports be received.