

**A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
WAS HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2010**

Councillors Bradley, Dickson (P), Forder (Chairman) (P), Foster-Reed (P), Geddes (P), Hylands (P), Jacobs (P), Jessop (P), Kimber (P), Scard (P), Mrs Searle and Miss West.

**35. APOLOGIES**

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Searle.

**36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**37. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman advised the Committee that an extraordinary meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be arranged for early January 2011 to discuss the Nursery Working Group's report. Democratic Services would inform the Committee Members of the date in due course.

**38. POST 16 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN GOSPORT**

Mr. Nigel Duncan, Acting Principal of Fareham College, was welcomed to the meeting. The Chairman explained that Mr. Carl Groves, Principal of Fareham College, was unable to attend earlier in the year due to illness. Fareham College's ideas were important, as approximately 40% of young people in Gosport travel to Fareham for their education.

Mr. Duncan thanked the Committee for the opportunity to discuss post 16 education in Gosport. He reiterated the importance of Fareham College in the education of young people in Gosport.

Mr Duncan stated that Gosport's A Level provision was of high quality, but there was a need for more vocational skill training. Whilst Fareham College provided good vocational training, it lacked adequate A Level provision. He believed that a solution for both educational institutions would be to combine their expertise. Joint projects had been suggested in the past, but had never come to fruition. Mr Duncan suggested the combination of both institutions into one college, which had one name, one management team, but two campuses. The Gosport Campus would be a new build focusing more on vocational training, with the potential to develop a technical college with a specialism in a form of engineering. This would be complimentary to the provision of A Levels at Bay House School. Fareham College would offer mixed curriculum, while increasing its A Levels that were on offer.

The benefits of one college would be better resourcing, more choice for students, greater investment and ensuring that students do not feel the need to travel out of the area for their further education. What was needed was a vision which both institutions and Borough Councils would sign up to, one which transcended personalities and current politics so it could withstand the test of time and provide superior post 16 education for the Gosport area.

Mr Duncan concluded that St Vincent College and Fareham College were linked. For the long term success of both institutions, collaboration was necessary. The alternative was competition, which was not healthy for either educational institution and certainly not advantageous for the education of young people Gosport.

Members asked Mr Duncan whether he considered the new Hamble College a threat to Fareham College. Mr Duncan replied that he wished to work closely with Hamble College as they had good marine engineering facilities. Hamble College was seen as an opportunity to increase the scope of vocational education at Fareham College.

A Member asked for Mr Duncan's opinion on building further education facilities at Bridgemary School. Mr Duncan believed it was too far north in the Borough and that investment would be more advantageous at St Vincent College.

The Committee inquired why Mr Duncan believed Bay House School to be important in the education of young people in the Gosport area. He replied that Bay House School was important as it provided good A Levels, but reiterated that vocational training was not sufficiently provided in Gosport.

At the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting Ms. Lloyd, Principal of St Vincent College, had presented her views on post 16 education in Gosport. She had explained the focus should be on post 14 and not post 16 education. Mr. Duncan responded that Fareham College dealt with primarily post 16 education and believed more could be achieved in this area.

A Member asked whether state of the art facilities, like at South Downs College, could be provided for Gosport through Mr Duncan's strategy for post 16 education. Mr Duncan believed that it could, as all resources could be pooled.

The Committee thanked Mr Duncan for attending.

### **39. RESPONSE TO COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON POST 16 EDUCATION IN THE GOSPORT AREA**

The Committee considered a draft response to the County Council's consultation on post 16 education drawn up by the Chairman.

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The Committee felt that it was a fair representation of their views. Three amendments were made to the response (see appendix one attached to the minutes).

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the draft response, as amended, be considered by the Policy and Organisation Board; and
- b) Policy and Organisation Board be asked to approve the response to be sent to Hampshire County Council.

**40. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to discuss.

The meeting ended at 7.05 p.m.

CHAIRMAN