

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 13 November 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

City Learning Centres

1. Executive Summary

Following a report considering the use of the Wirral's City Learning Centres (CLC's) at the Schools Forum meeting on 7 July 2013 a number of resolutions were made regarding funding, governance and management. This report provides the Forum with an update on the current position.

2. Background

At the 7 July 2013 meeting it was resolved that:

1. The overall CLC budgets should remain at their current level of £814,700.
2. That the governance and management structure of the CLCs should be reduced to one and a business plan produced
3. That in principal, the number of CLCs should be reduced from 3 to 2, however, the final decision should be taken by the Management Committee.

The actions taken following the resolutions made on 7 July 2013 are described below.

3. Joint meeting of the 3 City Learning Centre Management Boards (16 Sept. 2013)

Following the resolution of the Schools Forum a meeting was organised on Monday 16 September 2013. All current members of the 3 existing City Learning Centre Management Boards were invited to the meeting.

It was resolved at this meeting that:

One Management Board would be established for all Wirral CLCs.

It was proposed that all current members of the Management Boards would be members of the new Wirral CLC Management Board. This would be confirmed at the first meeting of the newly formed Board.

The first meeting of the newly formed Management Board would be held on 25 September 2013.

4 Meeting of the Wirral City Learning Centres Management Boards (25 Sept. 2013)

The proposal for membership of the Board, made at the meeting held on 16 September was confirmed.

A Chair and Vice Chair were nominated and elected.

Chair	Mr S Brady	Headteacher, Bidston Avenue Primary School
Vice Chair	Mr T Wood	Community Member

Additional non-voting members were identified to support the process as and when required:

Mr P Sheridan	Headteacher Manager Secondary
Mr S Dainty	Headteacher Manager Primary
Mrs C Halewood	Human Resource Advisor

It was proposed that a working group be created to investigate in detail the possible solutions that would be considered by the Management Board. These would then be used as part of the Business Plan (Resolution 2 from 7 July 2013)

The working group membership was agreed to be:

3 Centre Managers
3 Secondary Headteachers
5 Primary Headteachers
6 Community Members (2 from each CLC).
Headteacher Manager Secondary
Headteacher Manager Primary

Two dates were agreed for further meetings:

Meeting of the Working Group:	16 October 2013
Meeting of the Wirral CLC management Board	5 November 2103

5. Meeting of the Wirral City Learning Centres Working Group (16 October 2013)

The meeting discussed the following:

- Budgets
- The existing staffing structures
- Actual cost of running the service and total building costs
- Human resource issues related to potential changes to the staffing structure.

It was agreed that the level of saving required to enable investment in leading edge ICT equipment could not be achieved without considering changes to the staffing structure and/or the number of City Learning Centres.

It was resolved that the 3 Centre Managers would meet with the two Headteacher Managers and report back to the next Management Board meeting on 5 November 2013. The report should include possible staffing structure models that could result in the level of saving required.

A request was made for HR support to meet with staff and to have informal discussions about the potential impact of any staffing structure changes.

6. Meeting of the Centre Managers and Headteacher Managers (28 October 2013)

Detailed discussion took place regarding the way the CLCs operated and the potential impact that a reduction in the number of CLCs would have on service including the current staffing structure and models that could be considered for re-structuring. These options will be presented to the Management Board on 5 November 2013. The outcome of these discussions will be verbally reported to the meeting.

7. Meetings of the CLC staff with HR support and Headteacher Managers
Discovery CLC (14 October 2013) in attendance Mr. G Bradfield (Unison)
West Wirral Works CLC (28 October 2013)
The Learning Lighthouse CLC (30 October 2013)

Staff were given a broad outline of the current position and the need to reduce costs in order to invest in resources to enable the service to continue.

Questions from staff about employment were considered, however it was emphasised at each meeting that this is still at an informal stage as there are currently no firm proposals for staff to be consulted over.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Schools Forum notes the report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services