

TO: EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE
19 JULY 2011

STRIKE ACTION – 30 JUNE 2011
Director of Children, Young People and Learning

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides the committee with an overview of the industrial action that occurred on 30 June 2011.

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The committee are asked to note the contents of the report as an information item.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 For information only.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 n/a

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The industrial action had the following impact on our schools:

- 15 Schools Closed
- 5 Schools partially opened
- 19 Schools Open

There were a total of 257 teachers taking part in the strike action – 214 full time and 43 part time. The payroll department has been advised of the names of these teachers in order for a pay deduction to be made for the one day of absence. A breakdown of the schools closures are attached as Annex A.

5.2 Communications

A guidance note was issued to headteachers and chairs of Governors to provide advice on dealing with the impending action. This helped resolve some of the regular questions which may have been forthcoming from headteachers. Indeed, there were a number of occasions where we were able to signpost headteachers to the guidance issued when phoning through with enquiries.

There was regular contact between headteachers and the HR Team to discuss the impact of the strike action on their schools. A number of regular questions were raised regarding opportunities for cover arrangements and minimum staffing numbers for the school to be safe. There were not too many contentious issues to resolve.

In addition an internal communications network was established within Bracknell Forest to ensure Members and other relevant officers of the council were advised of the impact of the action. The electronic media of the Bracknell Forest website, twitter etc was updated and the local media, including Radio Berkshire, were informed.

5.3 Trade unions

The Bracknell Forest union representatives for the NUT and ATL proved very helpful in their useful and timely contact. They were able to provide details of any issues arising at certain schools regarding the action and, in many ways, provide a degree of reassurance of the actions their unions and members were intending to take. This was particularly useful in regard to the picketing arrangements. There were a number of headteachers who were particularly anxious on how to respond to any form of demonstration or picket. The information received from the trade unions helped provide re-assurance to those headteachers that there were unlikely to be any local picketing. There was a larger demonstration held in Reading where, it would appear, local Bracknell teachers were in attendance.

5.4 Future Actions

It is too early to say exactly how this dispute will develop over the coming months. Other trade unions, such as the headteachers union NAHT, are balloting their membership on future strike action. It is also known the the support staff unions GMB and Unison are considering their options for future action. It is currently unclear what the position is of the remaining teaching unions.

We will continue to monitor the situation very closely and retain an open dialogue with the various trade union organisations.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 Not requested for this information item

Borough Treasurer

6.2 Not requested for this information item

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 Not requested for this information item

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4

Other Officers

6.5 n/a

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 n/a

Method of Consultation

7.2 n/a

Representations Received

7.3 n/a

Background Papers

Contact for further information

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Annex A

Establishment	Number of teachers	School Status	Number of teachers on strike	% teachers on strike
TOTAL	1,004		257	26%
Ascot Heath Church of England Junior School	12	1 - Open	0	0%
Ascot Heath Infant School	12	1 - Open	0	0%
College Town Junior School	16	1 - Open	0	0%
Cranbourne Primary School	12	1 - Open	0	0%
Crowthorne Church of England Primary School	10	1 - Open	0	0%
Holly Spring Junior School	12	1 - Open	0	0%
Meadow Vale Primary School	23	1 - Open	0	0%
Sandy Lane Primary School	30	1 - Open	0	0%
St Michael's CE Aided Primary School, Sandhurst	11	1 - Open	0	0%
St Michael's Easthampstead CE Aided Primary School	10	1 - Open	0	0%
Whitegrove Primary School	25	1 - Open	0	0%
Wildmoor Heath School	13	1 - Open	0	0%
Wildridings Primary School	15	1 - Open	0	0%
Wooden Hill Primary and Nursery School	19	1 - Open	0	0%
College Hall	12	1 - Open	0	0%
Warfield Church of England Primary School	12	1 - Open	1	8%
Great Hollands Primary School	21	1 - Open	2	10%
The Pines School	9	2 - Partially Open	1	11%
Sandhurst School	72	1 - Open	11	15%
Easthampstead Park Community School	63	2 - Partially Open 6th form only	10	16%
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bracknell	17	2 - Partially Open	3	18%
Ranelagh Church of England School	82	1 - Open	16	20%
Binfield Church of England Primary School	22	2 - Partially Open	5	23%
Fox Hill Primary School	13	3 - Closed	3	23%
The Brakenhale School	67	3 - Closed	19	28%
St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School	15	3 - Closed	5	33%
Garth Hill College	86	3 - Closed	30	35%
Crown Wood Primary School	17	3 - Closed	6	35%
Kennel Lane School	30	3 - Closed	12	40%
Winkfield St Mary's CE Primary School	12	2 - Partially Open	5	42%
St Michael's CE Aided Primary School, Sandhurst	11	3 - Closed	5	45%
Owlsmoor Primary School	20	3 - Closed	10	50%

College Town Infant and Nursery School	15	3 - Closed	7	47%
New Scotland Hill Primary School	15	3 - Closed	7	47%
Harmans Water Primary School	28	3 - Closed	15	54%
Holly Spring Infant and Nursery School	13	3 - Closed	7	54%
Uplands Primary School	11	3 - Closed	6	55%
Birch Hill Primary School	23	3 - Closed	14	61%
Edgbarrow School	84	3 - Closed	55	65%
Centrally Employed Teachers	14	N/A	2	14.29%