

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting2nd August 2007

1. Title of Item/Report

Corporate Parenting - Select Committee Review

2. Record of the Decision

Members considered a report coming from the Children and Young People's Select Committee Review of Corporate Parenting.

It was explained that, at the outset of the Select Committee's review of Corporate Parenting it was made aware of the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy that was being developed and due to be presented at Cabinet prior to the conclusion of the Select Committee's work.

In order to assist the development and adoption of the strategy it was decided to undertake this review in two stages. The first stage therefore dealt with issues about the strategy whilst the second stage would report on the findings of partnership working and assist the preparation and response to the Joint Area Review and Comprehensive Performance Assessment process.

The Chairman of the Select Committee informed Cabinet that the Committee supported the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy believing that it began to address the important aspects contained in Every Child Matters: Change for Children (2003) and The Children Act (2004) as well as the development of an approach to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable children and young people in the borough.

The Chairman presented the specific recommendations of the Select Committee and made particular reference to a recommendation calling for all Cabinet and Council reports to contain a corporate parenting implications paragraph to ensure that consideration was given to looked after children's needs.

Cabinet thanked the Select Committee for its report and supported the recommendations apart from the specific wording of the recommendation relating to the introduction of a corporate parenting implications paragraph on Cabinet and Council reports. Cabinet agreed with the

principle of the recommendation and appreciated the intention to highlight and maintain awareness of the Council's responsibilities in this area, however Members were concerned that, to include the paragraph on all reports would create avoidable work for officers and would potentially over complicate and unnecessarily lengthen reports.

In view of this revised form of wording was suggested. Members of Cabinet and the Chairman of the Select Committee supported the revision.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. at the beginning of each municipal year, at the first Council meeting, all councillors should publicly sign up to the Council pledge accepting their corporate parenting role.
2. each of the political groups within Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council should nominate a corporate parenting champion to be the Lead Member from their group on the Multi Agency Looked After Partnership (MALAP).

RESOLVED that:

3. all reports to Cabinet and Council, appertaining to Children and Young People issues, and any other appropriate reports, should contain corporate parenting implications presented in a similar way to financial, legal and community safety implications, to ensure consideration is given to looked after children's needs.
4. at the beginning of each school year all school governing bodies should sign up to the Council pledge accepting their corporate parenting role.

3. Reasons for the Decision

In order to assist the development and adoption of the strategy it was decided to undertake this review in two stages. The first stage dealt with issues relating to the strategy, and was addressed in the report.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

For decisions 3 to 4 only , by no later that Midnight on Friday 10th August 2007

Proper Officer
06 July 2007