

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

2 AUGUST 2007

**REPORT OF CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION/COUNCIL DECISION

Children & Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Cunningham

CORPORATE PARENTING

1. Summary

This report informs Cabinet of the outcomes of the first stage of the review of Corporate Parenting undertaken by the Children & Young People Select Committee between June and July 2007.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended to Cabinet and 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.

It is recommended to Cabinet that:

- (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).
- (3) All reports to Cabinet and Council should contain corporate parenting implications similar 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 Recommendations/Decision(s)

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

4. Members Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

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3. All reports to Cabinet and Council should contain corporate parenting implications similar 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

DETAIL

1. 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 deals with issues about the strategy whilst the second stage will report on the findings of partnership working and assist the preparation and response to the Joint Area Review and Comprehensive Performance Assessment process.

