

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting5th February 2009

1. Title of Item/Report

Raising Expectations - Enabling the System to Deliver

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the progress to date in preparing for the transfer of funding and commissioning responsibility for the delivery of quality education and training for young people aged 16-19 from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to individual Local Authorities (LAs) from 2010.

The report also outlined the Tees Valley Sub-Regional Group's Stage 2 assessment proposal detailing commissioning and partnership arrangements to support the transfer.

In September 2008, following Cabinet agreement, the 5 Tees Valley Authorities submitted to the Director of Children and Learners GO:NE a joint statement of intent outlining how the Tees Valley Authorities intended to work together as a sub-regional group to deliver their new responsibilities for the strategic commissioning of 14-19 education and training on transfer from the LSC in 2010. Individual Cabinets signed up to the sub-regional arrangement. Stockton was identified as the lead authority.

The proposed Tees Valley Sub-Regional Group (SRG) had been ratified. Stage 2 of the process was an assessment, carried out by DCSF in March 2009, to enable a readiness to deliver judgement to be made regarding the group's capacity to deliver at sub-regional level. Groups were invited to submit proposals detailing their commissioning and other partnership arrangements by the end of February 2009, to enable an assessment to be made by April 2009. This was intended to allow sufficient time for working/shadowing relationships to be agreed with the LSC for the start of the commissioning year in September 2009.

By the end of February 2009, the Sub-Regional Group must submit a plan to Government Office North-East outlining it's readiness for operating in the transition year including:

- * Governance arrangements;
- * Decision making process;
- * Dispute resolution;
- * Staffing needs;
- * Reporting processes, and
- * Financial and performance accountabilities.

A national panel would review the plan and make decisions on the readiness of the Sub-Regional Group. Individual feedback would be provided to the Sub-Regional Group via GO:NE from March 2009.

The Tees Valley Stage 2 Proposal was attached to the report.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The proposal as attached to the report be endorsed as the Tees Valley Sub-Regional Group's Stage 2 assessment submission to Government Office North East (GO:NE) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

2. Stockton be nominated as lead authority through transfer, with review in 2011.

3. The Corporate Director of CESC be given delegated responsibility for commissioning of 14-19 education and training as appropriate.

3. Reasons for the Decision

Local authorities were required to submit a Stage 2 Proposal regarding their Sub-Regional Group's commissioning plans and partnership arrangements to Government Office by the end of February 2009.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cunningham declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of this item as he was a governor at Westlands School and Abbey Hill School.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

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

Midnight on Friday 13th February 2009

Proper Officer
09 October 2009