

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting26th November 2009

1. Title of Item/Report

WiFi in Schools - Stockton Borough Council's Position

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that informed Members of the current position regarding use of WIFI in schools, identifying the concerns that had been raised and the response to these concerns was provided by the Health Protection Agency (HPA), which included reports back on current research into this issue.

The HPA remained the Council's source of expert scientific advice on radiation issues and the Council had contacted them directly to ensure decisions made regarding our schools were in compliance with both existing standards and the latest authoritative scientific evidence.

The Council policy regarding WIFI or any electromagnetic radiation issues in schools was to closely follow and adhere to guidance from BECTA and the HPA.

Cabinet heard from a spokesperson for the local pressure group PAMT (A Precautionary Approach to Microwave Technologies) which questioned the approach taken by the Council and the advice received from HPA. It was noted however that HPA was the recognised scientific body from whom local authorities received advice on this matter and that the Council had challenged and received assurances regarding the advice received. It was therefore proposed that this Council's policy on electromagnetic radiation issues should continue to be to follow and adhere to guidance from BECTA and the HPA and to keep the situation under ongoing review.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and that Council policy, regarding electromagnetic radiation issues, should continue to be to follow and adhere to guidance from BECTA and the HPA.

3. Reasons for the Decision

In order to ensure consistent and proportionate decisions regarding the

use of WIFI in Stockton's schools are made based on authoritative scientific advice

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

Not later than Midnight on Friday 4 December 2009

Proper Officer
30 November 2009