

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting6th October 2011

1. Title of Item/Report

School Performance 2010-11

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that presented an analysis of school performance in the academic year 2010 – 2011 and informed Members of continuing development in the Education Improvement Service.

The report provided background to how children were assessed at the Early Years and Foundation Stage, and the four key stages. Members noted how children at each stage had performed and noted areas for development and key focus during 2011/12.

Members also noted performance of young people, post 16.

Cabinet was informed of Ofsted inspections undertaken during the year. It was noted that at the end of the year, all the schools that had previously been subject to an Ofsted category of concern – Notice to Improve or Special Measures – had had it removed. None of the inspections across the year resulted in a school receiving an Ofsted category. This was the first time since the data had been collated in 2005, that Stockton had had no schools judged inadequate.

Cabinet noted developments in school improvement and also noted that the context for education continued to be one of reform and change. For example:

- Norton School and Blakeston School had amalgamated and formed Northshore Academy. Thornaby Community School had formed Thornaby Academy.
- There were two applications for Free Schools in the Borough
- The School's White Paper had removed the majority of all grant funding for School Improvement, resulting in a significant number of posts in Education Improvement Service being lost.
- Ticknell report into Early Years Foundation stage.
- Curriculum reform influenced by the Wolf report
- Changes to floor standards for schools and measures to assess

performance

- End of statutory duty to have a School Improvement Partner
- A new approach to special needs and disability provision

As a result of these changes, the Education Improvement Service had invested time in meeting with Headteachers to ensure their view of what they needed was central to the reshaping of the service. Innovative models of school support had been shared and developed with Headteachers through a discrete working group and regular 'Education Matters' events for all Headteachers. There was now a bespoke School Improvement Adviser programme which offered schools the ability to receive support and challenge in a flexible and collaborative way.

The Education Improvement Service would continue to explore how its services could be adapted to the changing face of its relationship with schools. This included retaining core services for all schools within Campus Stockton as well as brokering costed services to schools and other Local Authorities to generate income. It was committed to impacting positively on outcomes across the Borough and commanding a significant position in the growing market place of providers for school improvement services.

RESOLVED that

1. the standards and achievement across the Borough be noted.
2. the development in the Education Improvement Service be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

1. The annual report on school standards across the borough enabled Cabinet to monitor standards and achievement and to evaluate the impact of local authority monitoring, challenge, intervention and support.
2. The reference to the service developments enables Cabinet to understand the changing nature of the relationships between the Local Authority and schools.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cook, Coleman, Dixon, Harrington and Rose each declared personal, non prejudicial interest in the item entitled School Performance 2010/11 as they were school governors.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

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

Midnight on Friday 14 October 2011

Proper Officer
10 October 2011