

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting12th January 2012

1. Title of Item/Report

Education Act 2011

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that updated Cabinet on the content of the Education Act 2011 and, in particular, those aspects that impacted upon the statutory role and responsibilities of the local authority.

The key changes for local authorities encapsulated in the legislation were:

- enables a new entitlement for disadvantaged two-year-olds to 15 hours' free early years education
- replaces independent appeals panels for exclusions with independent review panels
- removes the duty on local authorities to appoint a School Improvement Partner for every school
- gives precedence to academy proposals, where a local authority identifies the need for a new school, and expands the academies programme to allow 16-19 and alternative provision academies
- extends the Secretary of State's powers to intervene in underperforming schools
- provides for the closure of the Local Government Ombudsman's school complaints service, and removes the duty to consider complaints about the curriculum from LAs. General complaints about schools will now be made to the Secretary of State
- allows for pilots of direct payments for SEN education services
- makes changes to LA powers over sixth form colleges
- provides for the abolition of five arm's length bodies (the TDA, the GTCE, the QCDA, the YPLA and the SSSNB)

The Act no longer makes the changes to the section 10 Children Act duty to co-operate with the local authority to promote children's wellbeing, as had been included in the Education Bill.

Cabinet remarked on the large number of powers that had been given to the Secretary of State.

RESOLVED that the provisions as set out in the Education Act 2011 be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To update members on the provisions of the Education Act 2011

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

Midnight on Friday 20 January 2012

Proper Officer
16 January 2012