

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

17 MAY 2012

REPORT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

CABINET DECISION

Children and Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Ann McCoy

EFFICIENCY, IMPROVEMENT, AND TRANSFORMATION (EIT) REVIEW OF SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS

1. Summary

This report presents the findings of the Children and Young People Select Committee following the EIT review of School Effectiveness.

This School Effectiveness EIT review covers the following services; School Improvement, School Inclusion, Looked After Children in Education Team, Redhill Education Service, Specialist Learning Team, Governor Support, Stockton ICT Unit (SICTU) and Workforce Development.

The review built on the work of the earlier review of the Early Years strand of the Early Intervention Grant EIT Review and previous service reviews which had already achieved the savings targets required. The review therefore focused on reviewing staffing structures and establishing efficient and effective business modelling meeting the needs of Stockton schools.

2. Recommendations

The Committee recommend:

1. To align and integrate teams to ensure efficient and effective service delivery and support for schools.
2. To review business models for commissioning and buy back services in the context of Campus Stockton Prospectus.
3. Put in place a modernised 'whole system' school improvement model, rooted in collaboration with Stockton schools and key partners and stakeholders

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

As part of the Council's EIT Programme, the Committee has undertaken the review with the aim of identifying options for future strategy, policy and service provision that will deliver efficiency savings while sustaining/improving high quality outcomes for SBC residents.

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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EFFECTIVENESS**

SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of the Children and Young People Select Committee following the EIT review of School Effectiveness. The review examined a variety of services that are delivered by Children, Schools and Complex Needs across the borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommend that:

1. To align and integrate teams to ensure efficient and effective service delivery and support for schools
2. To review business models for commissioning and buy back services in the context of Campus Stockton Prospectus
3. Put in place a modernised 'whole system' school improvement model, rooted in collaboration with Stockton schools and key partners and stakeholders

DETAIL

1. The report presents Cabinet with the outcomes of the Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation (EIT) Review of School Effectiveness undertaken by the Children and Young People Select Committee during the Municipal Year 2011/12.
2. The review formed part of a three year programme of EIT reviews covering all services provided by the Council. The programme aims to ensure that all services are reviewed in a systematic way to ensure that they are provided in the most efficient manner, provide value for money and identify opportunities for service improvements and transformation.
3. The scope of the review was agreed by the Select Committee in October 2011 and covered the following services:
 - School Improvement
 - School Inclusion
 - Looked After Children in Education Team

- Redhill Education Service
 - Specialist Learning Team
 - Governor Support
 - Stockton ICT Unit (SICTU)
 - Workforce Development
4. The review built on the work of the earlier review of the Early Years strand of the Early Intervention Grant EIT Review and previous service reviews which had already achieved the savings targets required. The review therefore focused on reviewing staffing structures and establishing efficient and effective business modelling meeting the needs of Stockton schools.
 5. Proposals relating to the definition of job roles and team alignment will be subject to a formal consultation with staff, which will begin in May. However, the Committee noted that whilst there were no current proposals to reduce staffing, any requests for voluntary redundancy would be considered in line with broader Council policy and the opportunity to maximise efficiencies and/or opportunities for staff in compulsory redundancy situations. Such considerations would of course, be assessed in the context of service need and delivery.
 6. Following consideration by Cabinet, an action plan will be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations will be implemented detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. It is estimated that the recommendations would save the Authority £200,000 per annum by re-aligning premature retirement and redundancy costs reflecting decreasing payments to the pension fund and a lower call on the use of the funds from schools.
8. A one off saving of £0.5m can also be released following a review of monies set aside from the Standards Funds / Area Based Grant programme for school improvement purposes which have since ended. The majority of these reserves are no longer required due to introduction of more efficient school interventions and support.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no specific legal implications emanating from the review at this stage.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

9. The review supports Children and Young People Improvement Priorities.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10. This report is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment because it is making no major change to any policy or service provision.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

11. Consultation has taken place with Governors and Head Teachers and the staff affected by the review. Full details are set out in the Select Committee report. Proposals relating to the

definition of job roles and team alignment will be subject to a formal consultation with staff, which will begin in May.

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Education related?

Yes

Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not ward specific.

Property

None