

Item 7

Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements Comments from Children and Young Select Committee

The Select Committee commenced their review in June 14 when the scope and project plan was approved.

The aim of the Select Committee review has been to ensure that the process and criteria for identifying priorities for 2014/15 has been transparent and robust and then to be involved in ensuring that the statutory public consultation is carried out appropriately. The Committee will also consider the consultation feedback and will be scrutinising the outcomes and report to Cabinet on recommendations in March 2015, prior to lodging with Secretary of State in April 2015.

To date the Select Committee have:

- reviewed presentations and background information
- had input into the key principles to be considered as part of developing the proposals for consultation
- reviewed and commented on the clarity of the information being provided to parents
- commented on the pre-statutory consultation timetable and details of consultees
- reviewed the proposals for pre-statutory consultation

On 20 November, the Select Committee were provided with finalised proposals following pre-statutory consultation prior to the statutory consultation commencing. The Select Committee noted that during the pre-statutory consultation period, the proposals had evolved to take on board feedback from schools and parents. The Select Committee commended officers on the transparency and inclusivity of the pre-statutory consultation process, commenting that the consultation had been a genuine and worthwhile exercise resulting in improved proposals. The Committee were satisfied that the revised proposals for statutory consultation had taken on board comments received and commend them to Cabinet for approval.

The Committee also welcomed the inclusion of a summary and highlighted changes in the consultation document and supported the holding of public meetings in January as part of the consultation in addition to consultation with Parish Councils.