

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Review Title: Review of Primary Provision Bath and North East Somerset

A Review by the Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Background

All primary schools in Bath & North East Somerset are to be reviewed over the period September 2003 to May 2009.

The process to be followed when undertaking an Area Review has been the subject of wide and lengthy consultation. It was finally approved by the School Organisation Committee (a body independent of the Council) on 22 July 2003.

A document describing the process can be found on the Council website at: www.bathnes.gov.uk/committee_papers/OandSEYCL/EYCL021202/10SchoolReviewProcess.htm. Paper copies are also available on request.

Each school is initially to be reviewed alongside its partner schools in a geographical area.

Purpose

The aims of the review process are to:

- Maintain and improve educational standards
- Maximise the use of existing resources (land, buildings and funding)
- Increase access to high quality facilities for children, staff and the community
- Make the choice of a local school the natural and easy choice for parents

Objectives

At the end of each Area Review, elected Councillors may decide that some changes (school closures, new schools, enlarging schools etc.) appear to be necessary and initiate a further consultation process focussing on the school(s) affected. It is equally possible that Councillors may simply acknowledge that the pattern of school provision is working effectively and that no changes are required in the short or medium-term.

Scope

- Educational Standards
- Resources
 - Land
 - enough suitable land, removal of excess land

- Buildings
 - condition, suitability and sufficiency of school accommodation
- Funding
- Sufficiency of Places
 - enough places to meet current and forecast demand
 - removal of surplus places

Approach

The Panel will undertake the following activities to gather information:

1. Research
 - Receiving a discussion paper including factual data sets on the schools under review
 - Receiving briefings from the Education service
2. Consultation
 - Visits to Schools
 - Contributor session to establish the views of key stakeholders
 - Seeking the views of parents, governors and schools
3. Formulation of recommendations
 - All information gathered will be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel, at a facilitated session, and conclusions and recommendations drawn up.

Outputs of this Review

- Notes and papers from public Children and Young People O&S Panel meetings
- Notes and papers from contributor sessions
- Report incorporating key findings, conclusions and recommendations for primary school provision in the area
- Recommendations to be presented to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Constraints

- The review must be managed within the budget and resources available to the Panel.
- As this review impacts on Primary schools, all public meetings will need to be held during term times.

Draft Outline Project Plan

<i>Date</i>	<i>Stage / Activity</i>	<i>Meeting Type</i>
	O&S Private briefing	Private
	Visits to schools	Private
	Contributor Session	Public
	Recommendations workshop – facilitated session	Private
	Final report brought to O&S public meeting for agreement	Public
	Final report and recommendations to Cabinet	Public

Project Team

Children & Young People O&S Panel	Cllr Sally Davis Cllr Shirley Steel Cllr Marie Brewer Cllr David Speirs Cllr Nathan Hartley Cllr Andrew Furse Cllr Marian McNeir Plus existing co-optees may wish to be involved
Directors:	Ashley Ayre, Children's Services Director
Service Officers:	Helen Hoynes, Children's Services and School Organisation Manager
O&S Project Officer:	Alison Enever
Panel Administrator, Democratic Services	Mark Durnford