

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Review Title: Review of Secondary Education in Bath and North East Somerset

A Review by the Education, Youth, Culture & Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Background

Since 2003 the EYCL Panel have been engaged in reviewing Primary Schools in the area. Whilst this work continues, there is an emerging need to review the Secondary Schools in the area, because we need to ensure that future secondary provision matches the needs of the current and future generations.

There are thirteen secondary schools in the Bath and North East Somerset area. Nine of these are co-educational schools, including one Church of England school and one Roman Catholic school. There are also four single sex schools, two boys' schools and two girls' schools.

Although overall results are good, there is a big gap in the performance of our secondary schools, results at post-16 are below national average, and a number of schools are very overcrowded. Present government thinking is the Authority will be receiving a sum of money to renew one secondary school by 2011 and an even larger sum in the middle of the next decade for the renewal of our other secondary schools. It is important that prior to this some of our existing problems are resolved and we are in a good position to spend this money on the right things in the right way, and in the right place.

The review will take place in three phases. The first will look at the Keynsham and Chew Valley area, the second at the Bath area, and the third at schools in Midsomer Norton and Radstock.

Purpose

The purpose of this review is to examine the current primary Secondary School provision in Bath and North East Somerset, and to make recommendations for improvements to that provision.

The review will aim:

- To promote high educational standards, improved attendance and improved standards of behaviour
It is a statutory responsibility of the Council to promote high standards. Good attendance and behaviour are a prerequisite to achievement.
- To promote the effective use of resources (money, buildings, land and people)
This aims to ensure that finite resources are focussed on learning and teaching.

- To seek to provide high quality facilities for young people, staff and communities
This incorporates the extended school concept and aims to ensure that secondary school sites and buildings become the centre of services in each area regardless of whether users have school-aged children or not.
- To make the choice of a local school the natural and easy choice for parents / carers whilst recognising the wider area served by Church schools
This aims to increase the number of young people entering their first preference school, improves community cohesion and reduces travel by car
- To ensure that a school is within reasonable walking / cycling distance of home and /or reasonably accessible by public transport.
This aims to ensure that the negative effects of travel to school are mitigated

The Panel's recommendations for the future structure of Secondary School provision will be passed to the Executive Member for Children's Services.

Objectives

It is anticipated that the review will recommend action for a pattern of provision which will be sustainable:

- for the ten year period following the conclusion of the reviews, includes the implementation of the findings of the Learning & Skills Council Strategic Area Review (StAR) and takes account of the effect of primary area reviews, i.e 2006 to 2016.
- for the ten year period following the implementation of "Building Schools for the Future", expected to be 2016 to 2026.

Scope

The Panel will explore the following aspects of Secondary School provision in the authority:

1. School Buildings
 - a. How the buildings fit the curriculum
 - b. The state and quality of the buildings
 - c. How the school is physically organised, for example split sites
2. The Curriculum
 - a. How timetable choices are managed:

- 11 to 14
 - at GCSE
 - at A Level
 - b. Are AS Levels and/or Baccalaureate offered, and if so how is this managed
 - c. Extra curricular activities – for example sports and drama
 - d. Pastoral care
3. School organisation
- a. Class sizes, number of groups per year
 - b. How different age groups etc are segregated
 - c. Partnership with other schools
4. Admissions and attendance
- a. Admissions policies
 - b. Appeals procedures and outcomes
 - c. Attendance records, trends of unauthorised absence and exclusions
 - d. Where do pupils live
 - what is the geographical distribution for each school
 - how many pupils come from outside of Bath and North East Somerset
5. Overarching factors
- a. Secondary School capacity for Bath and North East Somerset pupils for the coming decades
 - b. Greater Bath consortium survey of parents
 - c. Demographic trend emerging from primary schools
 - d. Movement of pupils around the secondary schools in the area
 - e. Potential impact of housing development in the area
 - f. Potential impact of the Regional Spatial strategy
 - g. Bristol's Building Schools for the Future programme
 - h. Potential impact of the denominational, single sex and coeducational make-up of the school structure in the Greater Bath Consortium

The review will not look at special schools, as the reorganisation of special schools has already been agreed and is underway.

Whilst the review will not make recommendations on school transport, as this issue has already been dealt with comprehensively by the recent Joint Panel Passenger Transport Review, the Panel will consider the implications of school transport issues arising from the Bath and North East Somerset transport board.

The review will not consider private sector secondary school provision, however the Panel will recognise the potential impact of parents choosing to send their children to private secondary schools, on the state secondary school provision in the area.

Information on 6th Form colleges and Further Education colleges will be of relevance to the review.

Approach

The Panel will undertake the following activities to gather information:

1. Research

- Receiving data sets on each cluster of schools under review
- Receiving briefings from the Education service on each cluster of schools
- drawing on best practice from other LEAs across the country.

2. Consultation

- Visits to Schools
- Engagement with School Councils
- Contributor session to establish the views of key stakeholders
- Web page
- Press releases
- Seeking the views of parents, governors and schools

Outputs of this Review

- Notes and papers from public EYCL O&S Panel meetings
- Notes and papers from contributor sessions
- Summary of findings to be released after each phase of the review is completed
- Short summary report incorporating key findings, conclusions and recommendations for future Secondary School provision to be produced at the end of the whole review process
- Recommendations to be presented to the Executive Member for Children's Services

Constraints

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

Draft Outline Project Plan

| Date | Stage / Activity | Meeting Type |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 17 th October 2005 | Draft Terms of Reference taken to EYCL Panel meeting | Public |
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| <i>Autumn Term 2005</i> | <i>Keynsham and Chew Valley area phase of review</i> | |
| w/c 17 th October 2005 | Visits by O&S Panel | Private |
| 8 th November 2005 | Contributor Session, Keynsham and Chew Valley area | Public |
| Late November | Facilitated workshop for Panel to discuss findings | Private |
| Early December | Publication of Panel's findings | Public |
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| <i>Spring and Summer Terms 2006</i> | <i>Bath area phase of review</i> | |
| March 2006 | Visits by O&S Panel | Private |
| April 2006 | Contributor Session, Bath area | Public |
| May 2006 | Facilitated workshop for Panel to discuss findings | Private |
| June 2006 | Publication of Panel's findings | Public |
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| <i>Autumn Term 2006</i> | <i>Midsomer Norton and Radstock area phase of review</i> | |
| October 2006 | Visits by O&S Panel | Private |
| November 2006 | Contributor Session, Midsomer Norton and Radstock area | Public |
| Late November 2006 | Facilitated workshop for Panel to discuss findings | Private |
| December 2006 | Publication of Panel's findings | Public |
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| Late 2006 / Early 2007 | Publication of full final report, incorporating findings from all three phases of the review, and overall conclusions and recommendations to the Executive Member for Children's Services | |

Project Team

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| Education, Youth, Culture and Leisure O&S Panel | Cllr Andrew Furse Cllr Dine Romero Cllr Sally Davis Cllr Shirley Steele Cllr Leila Wishart Cllr Hilary Fraser Cllr Marian McNeir Plus existing co-optees may wish to be involved |
| Directors: | Mike Young, Education Director |

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|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Service Officers: | Tony Parker, Head of Strategic Services Bruce Austen, School Organisation Manager |
| O&S Project Officer: | Alison Enever |
| Panel Administrator, Democratic Services | Ann Swabey |