

Review Title: **Review of Secondary Education Provision**

Overview & Scrutiny Panel: **Education, Youth, Culture and Leisure**

Panel Chairman: **Cllr. Andy Furse**

Overview & Scrutiny Project Officer: **Georgina Jackman**

Supporting Education Service Officers: **Tony Parker (Head of Strategic Services); Chris Kavanagh (School Capital Team Leader)**

Process for Tracking O&S Recommendations - Guidance note for Executive Members

The enclosed table lists all the recommendations arising from the above Overview & Scrutiny Review. Individual recommendations are referred to the relevant named Executive Members (or whole Executive in the case of a whole Executive referral) as listed in the '**Exec Member**' column of the table. In order to provide the O&S Panel with an Executive response on each recommendation, the named Executive member (or whole Executive) is asked to complete the last 3 columns of the table as follows:

Decision Response

The Executive has the following options:

- **Accept** the Panel's recommendation
- **Reject** the Panel's recommendation
- **Defer** a decision on the recommendation because a response cannot be given at this time. This could be because the recommendation needs to be considered in light of a future Executive decision, imminent legislation, relevant strategy development or budget considerations, etc.

Implementation Date

- For 'Accept' decision responses, give the date that the recommendation will be implemented.
- For 'Defer' decision responses, give the date that the recommendation will be reconsidered.
- For 'Reject' decisions this is not applicable so write n/a

Rationale

Use this space to explain the rationale for your decision response and implementation date. For accepted recommendations, please give details of how they will be implemented.

Secondary Education Provision: Recommendations

Recommendation	Exec Member	Decision Response	Implementation Date	Rationale
<p>General</p> <p><i>The Panel understands that there are certain difficulties associated with predicting pupil numbers into the future and that this will always present a challenge when developing future provision. It is also aware of the need to ensure that resources are used as equitably and efficiently as possible across schools in the Authority to maximise the benefits to all pupils. To improve the Authority's ability to use resources efficiently and to plan effectively the Panel recommends:</i></p>				
<p>R1. That the Authority ensures it has in place a robust methodology and sufficient resources to enable it to monitor population changes; the effects of housing development; and therefore to predict future numbers of pupils. In view of the opportunities presented through the Building Schools for the Future programme, it is essential the Authority has confidence in the data which informs its planning for future education provision.</p>	<p>Cllr Jonathan Gay</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>9/08</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In principal agreement. Officers to research methodologies used in other authorities and review products available. • Potential purchase of commercially available system will depend on funding available and value for money.
<p>R2. That the Authority develops a methodology or formula which will enable it to identify the level of pupil numbers in a school, below or above which there is likely to be a risk to the quality or range of educational opportunities available to pupils who attend it. This would enable an early review of the situation and contributory factors. The Panel would expect to have involvement in any review relating to a school identified through this method</p>	<p>Cllr Jonathan Gay</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>9/07</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School organisation plan has statements related to optimum size of schools • Officers will review and update this to include clear statements of optimum size of Primary, Secondary and Post 16 provision. Following this a paper will be brought to EYCL O&S panel.

Review of Secondary Education Provision (EYCL O&S Panel): Executive Response Table

Recommendation	Exec Member	Decision Response	Implementation Date	Rationale
<p>Sixth Form Provision and the 14-19 Curriculum</p> <p><i>The Panel recognises that some of the most radical changes proposed by Central Government relate to students in the 14-19 age group. It will not be possible to judge how well these are working within Bath and NE Somerset for at least 2-3 years as the new arrangements are not yet fully implemented. The Panel therefore recommends:</i></p>				
<p>Short / medium term</p>				
<p>R3. That the Authority should continue to offer encouragement and support to all institutions as they develop collaborative arrangements to meet the requirements of the challenging agenda for change in the 14-19 curriculum.</p>	<p>Cllr Jonathan Gay</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>4/07</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going support will be provided for these significant developments • 14/19 Strategy Board has been set up.
<p>R4. That as collaboration between institutions becomes more established and the new curriculum arrangements become embedded, these are monitored. The monitoring to include measures such as pupil retention rates and performance, co-ordination in timetable planning across different institutions, number of pupils moving between institutions and impact on transport / attendance rates. This could/should be undertaken in consultation with the Learning and Skills Council. The intention would be to identify areas of good practice and also any areas of weakness.</p>	<p>Cllr Jonathan Gay</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>9/07</p>	<p>Monitoring is essential to measure success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with Schools, Learning Skills Council, Connexions and School Improvement Team to establish baseline and robust key indicators • From 9/07 use of these key indicators to monitor collaboration

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Long Term				
<p>R5. If it becomes clear that the existing collaborative arrangements are not delivering either the quality or breadth of education required for the 14-19 age group, the Council should consider whether as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme there should be one or more dedicated sixth form centres.</p>	<p>Cllr Jonathan Gay</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>9/2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following careful monitoring (see Rationale for R4) initial review 9/2010. • Following this review with Schools and LSC decisions ready to feed into main BSF programme (Expected 2014 but possibly earlier).
<p>School Provision</p> <p><i>The Panel has looked at pupil numbers (both current and predicted) and recognises that Bath and NE Somerset has an over provision of school places, this is particularly evident in the Greater Bath Consortium. However, there are factors which may also impact on the number of school places required in other areas as well, including changes to schools in neighbouring authorities and planned / future housing developments. The Panel wishes to ensure that in the longer term, the overprovision of places is addressed whilst still retaining the flexibility which will enable it to continue to provide sufficient places if and when these changes take place. The reduction in places should be accomplished in a manner which retains the option of church school places and also increases the number of co-educational places within Bath itself. The Panel recommends:</i></p>				
Chew Valley School - Short / Medium / Long Term				
<p>R6. That there should be no organisational change in the Chew Valley area, either before or following implementation of the Building Schools for the Future programme.</p>	<p>Cllr Jonathan Gay</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>3/07</p>	<p>Agreed – no organisational required for Chew Valley area.</p>
Keynsham Schools - Short / Medium Term				
<p>R7. That the numbers attending both Keynsham schools should be closely monitored, particularly with reference to the proportion of out of area pupils attending these schools</p>	<p>Cllr Jonathan Gay</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>9/07</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual monitoring (see also R9)

Review of Secondary Education Provision (EYCL O&S Panel): Executive Response Table

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Keynsham Schools - Medium /Long Term				
R8. That the Authority should carefully monitor the progress of the Regional Spatial Strategy in relation to developments at Whitchurch / Hicks Gate. Should major development take place at these locations, consideration should be given to the merits of relocating Broadlands School to a location which would serve the resulting increased pupil population.	Cllr Jonathan Gay	Accept	3/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree with panel on-going monitoring of RSS required.
R9. That a single school in Keynsham is a desirable outcome and that at the time the Building Schools for the Future programme is implemented, the Authority should consider whether a single school could serve this area. Close liaison with colleagues in the neighbouring authorities (particularly Bristol City Council) will be required and early consultation with them should be undertaken.	Cllr Jonathan Gay	Accept	3/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with Bristol LA and S.Glos concerning timeframe and PAN of Schools in their BSF programme. • Specific discussion with Bristol concerning Hicks Gate Whitchurch developments as part of RSS.
Radstock and Midsomer Norton Schools – Short / Medium Term				
R10. The Authority should monitor the effects of planned housing development in the APR of each of the schools on the numbers entering each school and its sixth form over the next few years.	Cllr Jonathan Gay	Accept	3/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See also R1
R11. Should pupil numbers at any school become unsustainable before the planned implementation of the Building Schools for the Future programme, the Authority should open discussions with all stakeholders regarding the possible Federation of Norton Hill and Somervale schools.	Cllr Jonathan Gay	Accept	9/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers will be monitored • No immediate action is required given current numbers

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Radstock and Midsomer Norton Schools – Long Term				
R12. Although currently the Regional Spatial Strategy proposed development would not justify moving one of the schools in Midsomer Norton, if this changed when the Regional Spatial Strategy is finally approved and the housing development allocation warranted, consideration should be given to moving one school so that it could serve pupils in the rural areas between Midsomer Norton, Keynsham and Bath.	Cllr Jonathan Gay	Accept	CK to check date RSS accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Spatial Strategy will be approved from (CK date) and developments will then be monitored closely The implications for Home to School transport would need to be carefully analysed before any decisions were made.
R13. Should it become apparent that the number of pupils in any school is becoming unsustainable then at the time that the Building Schools for the Future programme is implemented, consideration should be given to reducing to two schools.	Cllr Jonathan Gay	Accept	At the time of full BSF implementation c 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful analysis will be needed of available government funding to refurbish and rebuild Secondary schools as part of BSF programme
Greater Bath Schools – Short / Medium Term				
R14. That the number of pupils entering Bath schools and the overall size of schools be closely monitored against measures of performance, cost and sustainability.	Cllr Jonathan Gay	Accept	9/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also relates to R7 and R11. System to monitor performance and cost of all Schools to be put in place.
R15. Should any school(s) become unsustainable, consideration should be given to closure.	Cllr Jonathan Gay	Accept	9/07	Overall cost and efficiency of providing secondary places has to be constantly evaluated to ensure value for money.

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<p>R16. The Authority should actively seek to increase the number of co-educational places available in Bath through changing the status of two existing schools (Culverhay and Oldfield). A feasibility study should be undertaken to assess what would be required in order for these two schools to take pupils of both genders. This study should include information on where each school is likely to draw its pupils from were the change to take place and an assessment of the likely impact on other schools within the Consortium.</p>	<p>Cllr Jonathan Gay</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>12/07</p>	<p>Demand for more co-educational places has been evident for some time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial feasibility related to physical alteration to buildings and cost – deadline 12/07 • Initial consultation with Schools so that should Schools other than Culverhay or Oldfield express an interest they can do so - 5/07 • Plan for detailed consultation - 7/07 • Liaison with S.Glos (Re:Oldfield and capacity in Sir Bernard Lovell etc) - 7/07 • Decision whether to enter formal consultation - 12/07
<p>R17. The Authority should maintain the current level of church school places. The panel would therefore invite the diocesan boards and schools to consider ways in which this can be achieved. For example this could be through the continued provision of two Voluntary Aided Church schools (co-located or separate sites) or a single co-denominational school.</p>	<p>Cllr Jonathan Gay</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>3/07</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed – Diocesan Boards should be invited to consider how to maintain the current level of church school places. However, the overall cost and efficiency of providing Secondary School places must be considered carefully and there are no grounds for maintaining schools which are unsustainable.

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Greater Bath Schools – Long Term				
<p>R18. That there should be, in the longer term a reduction in the overall number of secondary school places available within the Greater Bath Consortium area. Within this overall reduction it is essential that the proportion of co-educational places available across the Greater Bath Consortium is increased, whether this is through implementation of R15, or through other changes to existing schools.</p>	<p>Cllr Jonathan Gay</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>3/07</p>	<p>Agreed, there are a significant number of surplus places in Bath Secondary Schools and these cannot be sustained. However, given the demand for more co-education places any reduction overall must not prevent increase in co-education.</p>
<p>Short / Medium Term Strategy for school buildings</p> <p><i>The Panel's final report was presented and discussed at a public EYCL Panel meeting on 8 January 2007. During the meeting a submission was made on behalf of the Headteachers of the schools involved in the review. They expressed concern that there seemed to be little recognition of the immediate needs associated with school buildings. The Panel accepted the points raised by the Headteachers and agreed to include an additional recommendation taken from the submission with a minor amendment.</i></p>				
Strategy for school buildings				
<p>R19. The Head teachers therefore would wish to work with the Council and other bodies to develop a short to medium term strategy which would lead to a capital investment programme for schools and their buildings so that we can provide the very best educational opportunities for the young people of Bath and North East Somerset.</p>	<p>Cllr Jonathan Gay</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>3/07</p>	<p>Welcome greater opportunity to work with Secondary Headteachers. Current developments such as merging the work of the Asset Management Forum with the School's Forum will help to provide greater co-ordination of decision making related to Schools Budgets and Capital works. The development of a specific group of Headteachers through Bath Secondary Heads will be most welcome.</p>