

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Children & Young People Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	13 September 2016	
TITLE:	Future Options for the Local Education System	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 – Academy Options Appraisal (EBM/Stone King Phase 1 Report)		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 To consider the future options for the local Education system, in light of changing national policy and legislation and the evolving landscape.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to reflect on the report and identify its preferred option (if any) for the Local Authority facilitating the development of local Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) (Options 1-3);
- 2.2 The Panel is recommended to discuss and consider their preferred long term strategy for school improvement and whether it would wish to see further exploration of a Teckal joint venture company (Option 4) as a route to deliver school improvement and/or other services to schools.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 Council officers are already working with schools to support them in considering their future options so the selection of a preferred model (Options 1-3) does not have a direct resource implication.
- 3.2 The future of school improvement and other services to schools will be impacted by the policy proposals in the White Paper: Educational Excellence Everywhere, to the extent that these are embedded in future legislation. Further exploration and development of a business case for the option of a Teckal joint venture company may require some additional resource in terms of both capacity and professional advice as necessary.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The White Paper has significant implications for both the Council and its schools and it is prudent to be looking ahead and providing a steer to how the Council approaches its work with schools to shape the future local educational system.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Officers have worked with headteachers and governors to clarify what further external advice would be helpful and as a result commissioned expert guidance on governance models, particularly aimed at groups of primary schools seeking to understand potential alternatives to joining an established MAT.
- 5.2 The PDS panel requested an options appraisal with a Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis.
- 5.3 A group of primary schools (largely but not exclusively in Bath) has been developing its own proposals for the development of a primary MAT and the same external consultants have worked with the 'architects group' designing those proposals, to provide some guidance and ensure that the emerging model is one which could be expanded or replicated for other local primary schools.
- 5.4 EBM (Education Business Management) working with Stone King, who both have extensive relevant experience, were commissioned to produce a report to meet the three aims described above. The report is attached in full at Appendix 1. Colleagues from EBM and Stone King will attend the panel to present their findings and answer questions.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The Panel has an opportunity to consider the report and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member who will determine the way in which this work is taken forward with schools.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 Relevant options are set out and evaluated within the report (Appendix 1).

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 All local headteachers and chairs of governors have been consulted.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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Background papers	<i>Previous PDS papers on the Education White Paper and future landscape.</i>
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