



Committee report

Committee

CABINET

Date

24 NOVEMBER 2008

Title

SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Report Of

Keith Woods – Directorate for Children and Young People

Purpose

1. To present for decision a number of policy options for the establishment of new system of school organisation with an earliest implementation date of 1 September 2010.
2. That the Director for Children and Young People be authorised (in consultation with the Leader) to approve the publication of specifications for those schools where competition is designated under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 should apply.
3. That the Director for Children and Young People be authorised (in consultation with the Leader) to approve the publication of statutory notices in respect of each school for which a policy decision is made in respect of paragraph 1 above.

Background

4. For a considerable period of time the Council has been examining the effectiveness, efficiency and viability of its current system of school organisation. This debate has taken place within the context of 'Why we need to change', as set out in the booklet 'which way forward for Island education?' published in January 2008 and attached to this report as Appendix A. The factors which indicate that the existing school organisation is unable to deliver the standards, opportunities and expectations we would want for our young people now and in the future are:
 - Poor education standards – overall, the attainment of children on the Island has not been in line with national expectations;
 - Changing national requirements – changes at a national level indicate that the school organisation as it currently stands would not meet the expectations set out by central government, particularly in respect of inclusion, the 14-19 curriculum, the proposed increase in the school leaving

age to 18 and the development of personalised learning;

- Declining pupil numbers – there are fewer pupils within the primary and middle schools, which lead to inequalities in the amount of money spent per pupil across the Island and unequal access to opportunities for the Island’s young people;
 - Economic regeneration is the key to the Island’s future and will require the development of schools and learning to reflect the different community requirements and pace of regeneration across the Island, the skill base needed by potential employers and the provision of high quality learning and opportunity, which will enable young people to secure employment and their future prospects on the Island. The scarcity of the requisite skills is identified in the Island’s Sustainable Communities policy;
 - Government guidance – alongside comments made about performance and raising standards within the OFSTED Area Review of 2003, the OFSTED Joint Area Review of 2006 and OFSTED Annual Performance Assessment of 2005, has led officials from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to ask the council to address the level of underperformance and low aspirations, the effectiveness of support and challenge to schools, the strengthening of school leadership and teaching quality, efficiency of the system of school organisation and the unfilled places and to end the uncertainty over the form of school organisation for the Island.
5. All of these factors point to a clear need for change and the need to ensure that the Island has a school organisation which is fit for the 21st century.
 6. In late 2004 the Council started consultation on a move from a primary, middle and high school organisation to that of a primary and secondary model. A decision was made in April 2005, by the then Children’s Services Select Committee, to proceed to formal consultation on a primary and secondary form of school organisation. Following the May 2005 local elections a new Council determined not to go to formal consultation and withdrew the proposal to move to a primary and secondary form of school organisation. Further detail is given in Appendix B
 7. In the summer of 2007 consultation took place on a modification to the primary, middle and high school system, with a proposal to extend the middle school age range by one year and retain Year 9 pupils within the middle school. It was also proposed that the high schools would be formed into a Trust under a single leadership and governance. These

proposals received a mixed response in the public consultation meetings with some significant objection to the retaining of Year 9 in the middle schools. The view was also expressed that insufficient options had been put forward, with many respondents requesting the consideration of a primary and secondary system of school organisation.

8. The public response was reflected upon and the decision was taken to put before the public a range of options and their potential impact upon individual schools. These options were contained in the booklet 'which way forward for Island education?'
9. From January until March 2008 the options within this booklet were put to public consultation. In addition to the public meetings, many people responded in writing and 3,141 returned a questionnaire response of which 3,069 were analysed. Seventy two were discounted as ineligible or incomplete. Young people were also consulted on the proposed options. The response indicated significant support for option three, which was a move to a primary and secondary system of school organisation.
10. A Full Council on 19 March 2008 recommended:
 - that officers prepare proposals to be put to a formal consultation on the change from a primary (4-9 age range), middle (9-13 age range) and high (13-19 age range) system of school organisation to a primary (4-11 age range) and secondary (11-19 age range) system of school organisation.

The recommendation of Full Council was then endorsed on 19 March 2008 by a meeting of the Cabinet in its role as the policy body for the Local Education Authority under the then Isle of Wight Council Constitution.

11. During March to May 2008 officers carried out further work on the outcomes for each school in respect of the proposal to move to a primary and secondary system of school organisation. The proposals were matched to the requirements of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Further detailed consultation was held with the Church of England and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Learning and Skills Council and the appropriate Professional Associations and Unions. Area meetings were also held with the headteachers and representative governors of all the schools. The outcome of this additional work and consultation was put to the Cabinet in a meeting of 3 June 2008.
12. In the Cabinet meeting of 3 June 2008 the Cabinet approved the formal statutory consultation on the move from a primary,

middle and high system of school organisation to that of a primary and secondary system of school organisation, the establishing of minimum one form entry and maximum two form entry primary schools and the associated proposals for each school within the proposed primary and secondary system of school organisation. The primary schools will be established, wherever possible, by the enlargement or amalgamation of existing primary schools. The secondary schools will be established as new schools and let by competition under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The consultation period ran from 23 June to 10 October 2008. Details of the previous processes of consultation leading to the formal consultation period form Appendix B of this report. Detail of the period of formal consultation and the analysis of the responses received form Appendix C of this report.

13. The analysis of the responses received to the formal consultation is reflected in the recommendations contained in this report. A summary of the representation and response is given in paragraphs 14 to 39 and is set out in full detail in Appendix C.
- Consultation
14. Extensive consultation has taken place in respect of the final proposals in this report. The consultation has been at two points. Initially in the period January to March 2008 and then from 23 June 2008 to 10 October 2008. This element of formal consultation is part of the statutory process following the Cabinet decision to consult upon school by school proposals from its meeting of 3 June 2008. Full details of the consultation process and the representation received are in Appendix C of this report.
15. The consultation meetings were to a consistent pattern with an initial presentation by officers, example copy attached as Appendix D, followed by an opportunity for questions or representation of views from those present in each meeting. Appropriate recordings and/or notes were taken of the process and audience comments. All meetings focused to the school by school proposals approved for consultation at the Cabinet meeting of 3 June 2008, however, all meetings reminded respondents that they could still make representation in respect of the policy move from a primary, middle and high system to that of a primary and secondary system and the establishing of minimum one form and maximum two form entry primary schools.
16. The main groups consulted were:
- the parents, governing body and staff of all schools where closure or closure and amalgamation was proposed;
 - the parents, governing body and staff of all schools, by area where enlargement or federation was proposed;
 - the wider public through open public meetings;

- Town and Parish Councils;
 - Early Years providers;
 - the Diocesan Authorities for both the Church of England and Roman Catholic faiths;
 - the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Learning Skills Council;
 - Professional Association and Union representatives.
 - Focus groups of young people.
17. The formal consultation has generated a considerable response representing the views of over 1,600 stakeholders. 52% of school governing bodies responded with 55% of their responses supporting the proposals as published and with a further 15% supporting the proposals with some conditions such as changes to proposed site location. The 25% of governing body representations opposing the proposals all relate to school closure either outright or by amalgamation. Seven Town and Parish Councils responded, with four supporting the proposals or parts of the proposals and three, with direct involvement with potential school closures opposing.

Summary of the issues raised by the representations received

18. A small number of respondents have challenged the Council's process in respect of the consultation and their understanding of the decisions taken as part of the process. It is the Council's view that the process has appropriately followed the DCSF guidance and has been open and truly consultative. There is clear demonstration, in the proposals, that the Council has listened and amended its position in response to views of young people, the public and school community.
19. The significant majority of respondents supported the proposal to move to a primary and secondary school organisation as outlined in the Full Council proposal, and endorsed by the Cabinet, of 3 March 2008. The majority of parent responses were in favour of the proposal with many supporting the concept of retaining the key stages discretely within a school sector and the potential positive impact this would have on their children's progress. The Church of England and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Learning and Skills Council supported the proposal for a primary and secondary school organisation. Young people identified that the change would improve the standard of teaching by providing the Island with a school organisation which is consistent with that of most Authorities in England and Wales. The young people also welcomed a system which would reduce the points of transition and retain the key stages fully in individual schools. They saw this as helpful to their progress. Whilst the concerns raised by some respondents are important and will need to be fully addressed in any implementation of change they do not negate the fact that in both the January to March consultation and in the formal consultation from 23 June 2008 to 10

October 2008 the overwhelming view of respondents has been to support the Council's policy proposal to move to a primary (4-11 age range) and secondary (11-19 age range) form of school organisation.

20. Some respondents have raised the issue concern over the proposal to set the minimum entry for a primary school at one form (maximum thirty pupils). In determining the principles for the establishment of a system of school organisation the Council has a duty to ensure that finite resources are spent in such a way as to ensure the highest quality of provision and best value for money. The Island's limited population sparsity and distance between schools does not support the establishment of primary schools below one form entry. Where primary schools are proposed for closure with no further provision, through amalgamation or federation, this is because the likely intake is insufficient to support even a half form entry. The proposal to limit the size of the primary schools to a maximum two form entry is welcomed. Further detail to this proposal is given in Appendix K.
21. A small number of respondents, from the high school sector, have questioned the rationale for declaring the proposed secondary schools as new and using the Education and Inspections Act 2006, competition regulations, to establish them. This issue is responded to in detail in Appendix L. However, none of the current high schools either collectively or individually have consistently achieved national standards at GCSE. They are unlikely to be seen as successful schools in the terms of the 2006 Act and it is unlikely that a waiver would be granted for any high school to be enlarged to meet the proposed new 11-19 secondary provision.
22. Representation has been made by Weston Primary School and members of the Totland community that the proposal to go to competition for the new Freshwater primary school should be reviewed and consideration given to the enlargement of Weston and its move to the new Freshwater site. The detail in respect of these comments is set out in Appendix L and this option for Weston Primary School is given within Appendix Q. Some objection has been received in respect of the proposal to apply for a waiver to competition in the following schools in the East Cowes Primary amalgamation with Whippingham Primary to be on the Osborne Middle site. The detail in respect of these comments and this option for East Cowes Primary School are given within Appendices C and Q.
23. Some further objection has been received from the Ventnor community in respect to the proposed Diocesan amalgamation of St. Boniface CE VC Primary, St. Margaret's CE VC Primary and St. Wilfrid's RC VA Primary. This objection is mainly on the grounds that the proposed new school will not provide a diversity of school choice to the

Ventnor community or provide a school in upper and lower Ventnor. The detail in respect of these comments and the options for the Ventnor community are given within Appendices C and Q.

24. A significant number of respondents have raised the question as to whether a change to a new system of school organisation will guarantee a rise in the standards achieved by young people. The detailed responses to the questions over standards are given in Appendix J. However, it must be recognised that where other Authorities have undertaken a change from a primary, middle and high school organisation to one of primary and secondary standards, particularly at the two key points at the end of Key Stage 2 (eleven year olds) and the end of Key Stage 4 (GCSE), have risen. Young people, in their response, recognise the constraints a system which is not matched to the key stages and which has two transitions has upon their progress and achievement. The proposals remove both of these significant disadvantages.
25. Given that those in the smallest schools receive additional funding of, on average, at least £4,000 per pupil per annum raises the question as to whether the Authority is meeting its duty of achieving the best outcomes for its finite resources and offering value for money in the current system of school organisation. The proposals would offer a more even funding distribution with better support for the most vulnerable pupils and, therefore, the potential for better value for money.
26. A small number of responses raise the increased upper age range of the primary schools and the increased lower age range of the secondary schools, in the proposals, as a risk in respect to pupils' behaviour and its impact upon standards. Whilst this concern is recognised the professional community, see the risk as minimal and effectively controlled by good school leadership and internal organisation. The secondary proposal also supports behaviour management with its reference to an internal 11-14 and 14-19 age related organisation.
27. One of the areas which generated the most significant response was that of transition, both for pupils and staff during the change from one system to another. These concerns are recognised and Appendices O and P are proposals in respect of both pupil and staff transition, which meet the questions raised by a parents and support the school community's view of what would make a smooth transition. The risk to staff morale is recognised and again the Authority would emphasise that the risks, in change, to jobs is limited.
28. Many responses saw the current and past uncertainty about school organisation to be a significant factor in underperformance. For many respondents, who were highly

supportive of the proposals, there was a key question of will the change be delivered. The school community, both governors, staff and many parents expressed the strong view that a clear and final decision must be made. This group also identified uncertainty as a key factor in staff morale.

29. Many responses, though often from those with a direct interest in a rural school, object to the closure of rural schools. A concern is raised that the Authority has not considered the requirements of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 in respect of rural schools or recognised the quality of their work and importance to their communities. In respect of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 there is a presumption against the closure of rural schools. However, an Authority will be able to rebut the presumption, by demonstrating that it has considered the overall and long term impact of closure on the community, the availability and likely cost to the Authority of transport to other schools, any likely increase in the use of motor vehicles, and alternatives to closure of the school.
30. As a starting point in determining the proposals for all primary schools the Authority applied a weighted matrix. The outcome of this matrix and the potential for the school to achieve one form entry sustainability was then applied in determining a proposal for enlargement, amalgamation, federation or closure. Currently the Isle of Wight has twenty one primary schools which are designed as rural by the DCSF criteria. The detail in respect of each school is given in Appendix C and Q.
31. In respect of the rural schools the Authority has given due consideration to the long term impact on the community transport and its cost to the Authority and alternatives to schools closure. The proposals do not provide for significant reduction of rural provision and when related to the limited sparsity of population and closeness of viable alternative provision are not unreasonable. With the potential development of some new school provision, within the rural community, and the Authority's position in being willing, subject to appropriate criteria being met by the rural community, to apply its Asset Transfer Strategy the proposals offer new opportunity to the rural community.
32. A significant number of respondents raised the provision of the school lift and safe routes to school as an area of concern. The detailed proposals and the Authority's duties for the school lift are set out in Appendix H. A detailed paper covering the transport needs will be brought to the March 2009 meeting of the Cabinet. This paper will make appropriate recommendations for Cabinet decision. The outcome of Cabinet decisions in March 2009 will then be incorporated in the publication of the statutory notices for each school in September 2009 as set out in Appendix P.
33. A number of respondents in the consultation have indicated that they feel the proposed system of school organisation will

increase the need for transport and movement of children across the Island. A key advantage of the proposed move to a primary and secondary school organisation is that children can remain much closer to their immediate communities for another two years of their education. In the proposed new school organisation most primary age children will be within reasonable walking distance of their schools. The secondary lift will be very much as now. The change to the proposed primary and secondary school organisation will also remove the high level of unfilled places within the current provision. This will mean that most children will in the future attend schools within the priority area of where they live. This change in itself will significantly reduce the current levels of cross Island travel. Further detail is given in Appendix H.

34. Provision for children with SEN/LDD was raised by a number of respondents. The detail to this response is given in Appendix M. However, it is important to recognise that the Authority's two complex learning difficulty schools, Medina House (primary age range) and St. George's (secondary age range) will sit outside of the changes to the mainstream school system. In meeting the needs of young people that have specific LLD needs the Authority will have three specialist units as of now, but with one unit in the primary sector and two units in the secondary sector. The proposed move from a system of primary, middle and high school organisation to one of primary and secondary will enhance the overall provision for pupils with LDD. In particular the following areas will see improved provision as a result of the proposed change in school organisation:

- progression and continuity of learning;
- curriculum breadth and opportunity;
- specialist staffing and support;
- accommodation compliance;
- equality of funding.

However, as within the current provision the support of pupils with LDD is and will remain a key function of each school's leadership and governance.

35. Some response raised concern over whether the Authority had the capacity to be able to deliver the proposed changes. To ensure the appropriate officer capacity and expertise the Authority is establishing a project team under a Project Director for School Organisation. Initially the project team will consist of a Project Director, project manager, procurement officer, communications officer and school improvement officer. The key areas of asset management, human resources and legal support are already in place. This commitment to a project team is also a readiness requirement of the BSF capital submission. It is the Council's view that it has in place the resources capacity and expertise to ensure the delivery of a new school organisation for the Island.

36. Both the Church of England Diocese of Portsmouth and Winchester and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth have expressed their full support for the proposals.
37. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Learning and Skills Council have given their full support to the proposal for a primary and secondary school organisation and the proposals in respect of establishing the secondary schools as new schools and letting them by competition. They raise some concern that there is over capacity in the proposed post 16 provision.
38. The response from the St. Helen's and Yarmouth communities in respect of the proposals for St. Helen's Primary School and Yarmouth CE VA Primary School have been extensive, accounting for almost 70% of all responses, and proposing alternative options and uses of the sites concerned. The response from both communities and schools, and the specific information which has been put forward requires further consideration before a final decision.
39. To resolve the matter for both these schools in a manner which is seen to be open and fair it is proposed that the Authority, subject to cabinet approval, will appoint an Independent Panel to review the proposals for both schools and provide officers with a report, which will be made public, to take to Cabinet for decision. The proposed remit for the independent panel is provided in Appendix R. In respect of Yarmouth CE VA Primary School this proposal is supported by the Church of England Diocese of Portsmouth and Winchester.
40. The Council's capital plan for primary education (Primary Capital Programme - PCP) has been approved by the DCSF, subject to the provision of some further detail in respect of special educational needs and risk assessment. Appendix E provides an outline of the Authority's submission. Approval of the PCP submission confirms the release of the additional capital grant for the rebuild and refurbishment of the primary school stock. Priority will be given to those schools which score highly on the deprivation indices. This means that the refurbishment/rebuild of some schools will be dependent on capital realised from the sale of existing assets.
41. There is the potential to request a bringing forward of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme as a result of a clear direction and decision from Cabinet for school organisation. The DCSF have requested all Local Authorities to re-submit their BSF proposals and readiness for 30 November 2008. Appendix F provides a draft outline of this submission.
42. The other schools formulaic capital allocations to supplement the delivery of the primary capital programme for the initial three financial years and future years of this long-term programme are provided in Appendix G. In addition the

Financial
Implications

development of a new system of school organisation will provide revenue savings, as there will be less schools overall and reduced overcapacity in the system. The development of new and high sustainability buildings will also provide revenue savings in maintenance and running costs.

43. Currently the implications of both PCP and BSF are not included in the capital programme. Once DCSF approval is given we will need to develop a spending profile and associated funding analysis for the school organisation project as a specific aspect of the Council's capital programme. The outline capital provision is given in Appendix S.
44. The Schools' Forum will need to discuss the manner in which the Direct Schools Grant (DSG) can be used flexibly to support schools through the transition period in the financial year 2009/2010 and the financial year 2010/2011. In addition they will have to develop a new formula for the distribution of the Direct Schools Grant and submit it to the Secretary of State for approval in 2009 for operation from September 2010. The development of a new formula for the proposed new school organisation has the potential to eventually release some £1M of funding within the DSG. The Schools' Forum can then apply this funding to specific purposes, such as support of pupils with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, the gifted and talented and development of support systems for preventive activity with young people and their families.
45. Subject to Cabinet approval to proceed, the Council will need to appoint a dedicated project team to ensure the successful implementation of the project. This commitment is also a requirement of the BSF capital submission. Initial costs of this project team will be £409,000 per annum but can be contained within existing council resources and once BSF funding has been allocated to the Council the costs become part of the BSF programme. Initially the project team will consist of a Project Director, project manager, procurement officer, communications officer and school improvement officer. The key areas of asset management, human resources and legal support are already in place. Full project cost is given in Appendix S.
46. In any decision to proceed the development of the current teaching and support staff will be a key factor in the transition and successful implementation of a new system of school organisation. Training costs will be a significant element of the implementation budget and will require agreement between schools and the Local Authority in both the detail of such a training programme and the commitment of both school and central training budgets in the financial years 2009/10 and 2010/2011. The required resource will be £300,000 over the two years from the Direct Schools Grant (DSG) and other grant funding.

47. Any decision to proceed will also have impact upon contracts the Council currently holds on behalf of schools. In particular the school lift contract, as outlined in Appendix H will require renegotiation for any new system of school organisation.
48. In respect of the school lift and transport to schools the Council will still broker a contract on behalf of all schools. Transport from home to school has been a significant part of the public representation to consultation, with particular concern raised around the transport for primary (4-11 year olds) age children. The next stages in respect to school transport are given in Appendix H. In meeting the cost for any home to school lift the Council may need to give consideration to its current transport policy and the application of its discretionary powers in respect to voluntary aided schools. The new lift will be provided within the current £2.029M annual spend
49. At a time of economic downturn the Council also need to reflect upon the impact both to local employment and regeneration of the capital funding available to it through the PCP and BSF funding streams.

Legal Implications

50. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 contain both statutory and non-statutory guidance on the process for making changes to school provision. The formal consultation (23 June to 10 October 2008) formed part of this statutory process.
51. To proceed further the Cabinet need to consider the representation received, as in Appendices B and C, and to take the outcomes of the consultation into account in making decisions according to the proposals to the Cabinet as referenced within this report.
52. If Cabinet determines to proceed, the next stage under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 will be the publication of the specification for those schools being let by competition and the invite of bids.

Risk Management

53. There is a strategic risk identified the Council's Strategic Risk Register relating to school organisation. Copy of the full risk register and current risk levels is provided in Appendix I.
54. Any delay in consulting the Schools' Forum on a flexible contingency approach to the Direct Schools Grant for the 2009/2010 financial year could place pressure on some schools budgets. Similarly any delay in submission to the Secretary of State for approval of a new formula for the new school system could delay the implementation date.

Options

55. In respect of determining the next stages in the process the Cabinet has three options as set out below. Each of these

options has subsequent effect upon the full range of recommendations provided in this report. The options and subsequent recommendations are based upon detailed analysis of the appendices already identified in this report and the following Appendices which are specific to the options and recommendations of this report.

Appendix J – Standards rationale for the move from primary, middle and high to a primary and secondary system of school organisation.

Appendix K – The rationale for the establishment of a minimum of one form entry primary schools.

Appendix L – The rationale for competition/waivers, where applicable, the specification outline and the specialisms and lead diplomas for the new secondary schools.

Appendix M – Learning Difficulty and Disability specialist unit provision.

Appendix N – Pre-school, Extended school and Community provision.

Appendix O – Outline processes for pupil and staff transition.

Appendix P – Next stages timeline.

Appendix Q – School by school recommendations.

Appendix R – Independent Panel remit.

Appendix S – Funding outline.

56. The options to be considered are:

Option A

The proposals as formally consulted upon from 23 June until 10 October 2008 are to be proceeded with in full.

Option B

The proposals as formally consulted upon from 23 June until 10 October 2008 are not to be proceeded with and officers are required to carry out further work and/or further public consultation with a report to Cabinet in February 2009.

Option C

The proposals as formally consulted upon from 23 June until 10 October 2008, subject to the amendments recommended in paragraph 65 and Appendix Q of this report, are to be proceeded with.

Evaluation

57. Option A

Significant representation has been received; reference Appendix C, in respect of aspects of the proposals of the 3 June 2008 Cabinet. This representation has raised a number of valid points and alternative community proposals which need to be considered.

58. Option B

Whilst the formal consultation has been well responded to, by both the public and professional community, the most significant issues are in respect of the proposals for individual schools, home to school transport and the transitional

arrangements for children and staff in any implementation of a new school organisation. Many comments express support for the need to change, in order to improve standards and the proposal to move to a primary and secondary system of school organisation. Whilst the concerns raised must be addressed any further delay would only add to uncertainty and possible anxiety for children and parents. There is not sufficient reason for further delay.

60. Option C

Representation from the public, the professional community, the Diocesan Authorities and The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Learning Skills Council has raised valid points in respect of the proposals of the 3 June 2008 Cabinet. These points are taken account of in the recommendations and Appendices of this report. The recommendations and Appendices of this report are fully endorsed by the Church of England and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities.

Recommendations

61. Cabinet adopt option C and the subsequent recommendations in paragraphs 61 to 71 are considered for decision in respect of the proposed school organisation.

62. That Cabinet adopt the following policy decision in respect of a new system of school organisation to be implemented at the earliest from 1 September 2010.

- **The establishment of a new primary (4-11 age range) and secondary (11-19 age range) system of school organisation.**
- **To establish the primary sector by enlargement and/or amalgamation of schools and at establishment to have no schools below one form entry (30 pupils maximum in a year group) and no school larger than two form entry (60 pupils maximum in a year group).**
- **To establish all community secondary schools as new schools and for them to be let by competition under the Education and Inspections Act 2006.**
- **Where waiver is not granted to new primary schools to establish them by competition under the Education and Inspections Act 2006.**

63. That the Authority should not seek to be a 'proposer' for any of the schools let by competition (this should allow the Authority to adjudicate the award).

64. That in respect of those schools and communities where there has been a significant response and concern raised to the proposals at the formal consultation stage that the

Cabinet establish a review panel of three educational professionals who have direct experience of school organisation and who have had no involvement so far with the local process. This panel to work to the proposed remit given in Appendix R. The panel to review the Council's proposal, consult with the community and provide an independent report for recommendation to the Cabinet by 28 February 2009.

- 65. That recommendations in respect of individual schools, as provided in Appendix Q, are approved.**
- 66. That recommendations for transition and the next stages timeline as provided in Appendices O and P are approved.**
- 67. That the Director for Children and Young People be authorised (in consultation with the Leader) to approve and publish the specifications for those schools to be let by competition.**
- 68. That the Director for Children and Young People be authorised (in consultation with the Leader) to approve and publish the statutory notices for all schools for which a decision has been made.**
- 69. That officers prepare appropriate pre-school and child care contracts for the new school organisation in line with the decisions for each school in paragraph 65. Where a school is to be discontinued in a community with numbers of children that would make pre-school provision viable that officers bring forward plans for extended service provision linked to these pre-schools.**
- 70. That officers are authorised to provide a full business case analysis for the provision of an appropriate home to school transport system, which will include an escorted primary lift, to the January 2009 Cabinet meeting for decision.**
- 71. That Appendix F is adopted as the outline submission for the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme and that the Director for Children and Young People be authorised (in consultation with the Leader) to approve the detailed final submission.**
72. [Appendix A](#) – 'which way forward for Island Education' the published consultation booklet.
[Appendix B](#) – Previous processes of consultation from 2005 to June 2008.
[Appendix C](#) – Analysis of the formal consultation – 23 June 2008 to 10 October 2008.
[Appendix D](#) – Exemplar PowerPoint of the consultation meeting presentations.

Appendices Attached

[Appendix E](#) – Primary Capital Programme outline submission.
[Appendix F](#) – Draft Building Schools for the Future (BSF) submission.
[Appendix G](#) – Formula capital programme projection 2010.
[Appendix H](#) – Home to school transport.
[Appendix I](#) – School organisation risk register.
[Appendix J](#) – Standards rationale for the move from primary, middle and high to a primary and secondary system of school organisation.
[Appendix K](#) – The rationale for the establishment of a minimum of one form entry primary schools.
[Appendix L](#) – The rationale for competition/waivers, where applicable, the specification outline and the specialisms and lead diplomas for the new secondary schools.
[Appendix M](#) – Learning Difficulty and Disability specialist unit provision.
[Appendix N](#) – Pre-school, Extended school and Community provision.
[Appendix O](#) – Outline processes for pupil and staff transition.
[Appendix P](#) – Next stages timeline.
[Appendix Q](#) – School by school recommendations.
[Appendix R](#) – Independent Panel remit.
[Appendix S](#) – Funding outline.

Background Papers

73. The following background papers have been used in the preparation of this paper.

- 2005 Children’s Services Select Committee papers.
- 23 November 2007 Cabinet papers.
- 19 March 2008 Full Council and Cabinet papers
- 3 June 2008 Cabinet papers.
- 2003 Local Authority OFSTED report.
- 2003 OFSTED Area wide review report (16-19).
- 2005 OFSTED Annual Performance Assessment.
- 2006 OFSTED Joint Area Review Report.
- 2007 Annual Performance Assessment.
- Suffolk Council research papers into the performance of a primary, middle and high school system.
- Education and Inspections Act 2006.
- The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007.
- TeacherNet guidance on school organisation.
- School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 and DCSF Guidance on Establishing a New Maintained Mainstream School

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