

The Strategic Development of Education for the 21st Century

Terms of Reference for Task Group

Introduction

The Council decision on 21 January 2008 was that there would be no closures or major re-organisations of high schools during the lifetime of the current administration. The Council would continue to apply the existing Small Schools Policy for primary schools and that no closures would happen outside of that policy. The Small Schools Policy will be implemented appropriately.

Following on from 2 December 2008 conference and building upon the 21st Century principles document which had previously been agreed with head teachers, this task group has been established. The challenges facing Herefordshire are:

- Continuing to improve the quality of educational outcomes for children and young people
- The impact of falling rolls
- Financial
- Workforce reform, in particular succession planning

Purpose of Task Group

The task group is advisory to the Council and any decision on school provision will be political.

To establish a set of criteria to underpin the future of education and learning provision which can then be applied to establish a strategic development plan for the next ten years. This criteria will provide a framework upon which decisions will be made.

The task group will report regularly to the Chief Executive, to ensure direction, timeliness and cross check any issues that may require a broader, cross Council, County and partner approach. The Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services will then feed outcomes into the normal political process.

Membership protocols

- To bring together views of education and the communities
- Work will be undertaken in an open and supportive way
- Members of the task group will work in the interests of the whole county
- Minutes disseminated in three days. Minutes will record action points and key discussion points.
- May bring in representatives as required, e.g. bursars
- Enquiries from the press would be referred to Carla Preston (press office) and the independent chair.

- Regular updates immediately following the meeting would be agreed by the Cabinet Member / Independent Chair and Director of Children's Services

Membership

Independent Chair – David Brown
Cabinet Member, ICT, Education & Achievement
Director of Children's Services
Head of Improvement and Inclusion
Head of Planning, Performance and Development
Planning Policy Manager
Parish Liaison and Rural Services Manager

Representatives:

Diocesan Representatives:

Roman Catholic x 1

Anglican x 1

Head teacher representatives:

Primary Schools x 4

Secondary Schools x 4

Governors Representatives:

Primary Schools x 1

Secondary Schools x 1:

The task group will be supported by officers from the Council, including finance, planning, transport, admissions and school improvement and others as required.

Way of working

Task group members should form sub groups to look at a basket of issues, e.g. transport, finance, NOR.

Existing information should be used as much as possible

Each group should prepare work outside of the meetings and use the Task Group meetings to discuss findings, check progress against timeline and find solutions to any potential difficulties

Areas for the task group to consider:

To agree a set of principles which can then be applied for the drawing up of a draft model of schools provision prior to full consultation. It may be that more than one model can be designed for consultation.

The Task Group will look at the different dynamics of Herefordshire – market town, rural, city etc.

Teaching & Learning	Community	Transport	Commissioning provision	School Staff
Quality Achievement Narrowing the gap Tools to support eg VLE, ICT	Position in community and use of schools Council-led work on sustainable communities	Rationalisation Fuel costs Parental choice Rurality	Population Trends Parental preference Pupil views Access	Profile Recruitment/Retention Well-being
Sustainability	Finance	Services for pupils and the Community	Size of Schools	Diversity of Provision
Schools Environment	Revenue Balances Use of overall budgets and split	CYPD employed Partner services Co location of services	Optimum size Small schools definition / policy	Community, VA, Foundation, Trust Federations, Clusters Governance
Assets	Pupil Support & Development	Inclusion		
State of assets Capital investment	14 – 19 agenda Extended schools Early Years		The needs of children and young people- ECM as key principle	

The Task Group will have flexibility to consider any other issues as they arise.

Timeline

January 2009	Agree terms of reference, membership, outline work programme
February to April 2009	Identify and analyse available data and information to devise a menu of criteria
May 2009	Initial report containing draft criteria
May 2009 – July 2009	Officers develop strategic plan of provision using criteria, including options as appropriate
November 2009	Results put forward to the Cabinet for consideration and agree a strategy for formal consultation and change management

Documents – Considerations

Principles for 21st Century Education in Herefordshire 2007
Primary Strategy for Change
Building Schools for the Future expression of interest
Data books 1 and 2 for clusters
Housing new build plans / data
PCT birth rate data
Map.

Sharon Menghini
Director of Children's Services
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