

MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	11 MARCH 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT IN SWIMMING AT KEY STAGE 2
PORTFOLIO AREA:	ICT, Education and Achievement

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide.

Purpose

To note the Cabinet Member – ICT, Education and Achievement, response to the Scrutiny Review of Pupil Achievement in Swimming at Key Stage 2.

Recommendation

THAT the Committee note the decision of the Cabinet Member – ICT, Education and Achievement to accept all the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Review of Pupil Achievement at Key Stage 2.

Key Points Summary

In accordance with the scrutiny process the Executive, in this case through the Cabinet Member – ICT, Education and Achievement, has considered and accepted all the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Pupil Achievement in Swimming at Key Stage 2.

Alternative Options

No alternative options are suggested as the Cabinet Member has approved all the recommendations from the Review.

Introduction and Background

- 1 Arising from a number of debates at the Committee on the provision of swimming tuition at schools the Committee at its meeting on 6 July 2009 set up a Scrutiny Review Group to look at pupil achievement in swimming at Key Stage 2 and establish baseline data against which future trends could be compared. Subsequent Committee meetings received reports and a presentation was received on 14 June 2010 from the Chief Executive, HALO the provider of swimming facilities to schools in

the county.

- 2 The Scrutiny Review Group met on 20 August 2010 and took into consideration information previously supplied to or considered by the Committee. The Review Group were also informed about the DfES publication "Swimming Charter" which provided information to schools, sports and recreation departments within local authorities on how to work and plan effectively, with guidance on how to encourage more children to take part in swimming. A report by the Assistant Director, Improvement and Inclusion, setting out the provision in Herefordshire schools was also taken into consideration.
- 3 The Chairman of the Review Group, Councillor WLS Bowen, presented the findings and recommendations of the Review Group to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on 1 October 2010.
- 4 The Committee agreed that the recommendations be forwarded to the Executive for consideration namely:
 - a. That 88% of pupils attaining the 25 metre swimming distance target by the end of year 6 be used as a local comparator for future benchmarking and trend monitoring;
 - b. That officers be requested to investigate the least disruptive means for schools to submit swimming data on an annual basis and data be compared to the data held by HALO;
 - c. Results from the data collected be included in the performance monitoring report to Children's Services Scrutiny Committee and any anomalies should then be investigated as the Committee considers appropriate;
 - d. Officers should investigate whether the local partnership between public, private and voluntary sectors were making the most efficient use of their swimming resources.
- 5 The Cabinet Member, ICT, Education and Achievement, considered a report dated 25 January 2011, setting out the background and recommendations from the Review referred to him by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.
- 6 The Cabinet Member, ICT, Education and Achievement, has approved the recommendations arising from the review and his decision has been recorded in the decision notice Ref No2011 ICT&A.001.
- 7 Officers will now be investigating methods of collecting swimming data and once the data received has been analysed the results will be reported to Committee as part of the Performance Monitoring Report. Officers will also be investigating the efficient partnership use of swimming recourses by the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Appendices

13 None.

Background Papers

- None.