

**TRADED SERVICES WITH SCHOOLS – GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To propose a change in the governance arrangements for managing the process for agreement of service levels and prices for traded services with schools.

**Main Considerations**

2. A report was brought to Schools Forum in 2005 proposing that the former Schools Services Board was brought within the Schools Forum structure and reconstituted as a Sub-Group of Schools Forum. The role of the new Schools Services Group was to agreed services to be provided and the prices for those services.
3. The context for the provision of traded services has changed significantly since that time with the conversion of many schools to academy status and the impact of austerity on the Council's ability to continue to provide traded services at a subsidised level.
4. The Council is now having to consider all of its services, the costs of those services and the ways in which they are delivered. This includes services that are offered to schools on a traded basis. It is recognised that whilst the Council needs to review its services, schools need to be kept informed of any potential changes and given sufficient notice and opportunity to make informed purchasing decisions.
5. It is proposed that the Council establishes an internal, officer led, working group to review service levels and prices and that a Traded Services Stakeholder Group is established to include Schools representatives. This group should only need to meet twice per year and would enable the Council to communicate any proposed changes in a timely way.

**6. Proposals**

1. That the governance arrangements for traded services with schools be taken out of the Schools Forum structure and the Schools Services Group ceases to operate.
2. That the Local Authority establish a Schools Traded Services Stakeholder Group which will include representatives from schools.

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