

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
31 JANUARY 2008

**EXECUTIVE AND PARTNER RESPONSE
TO ACADEMY TASK GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS**

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the committee of the responses received to the Academy Task Group's final report and recommendations.

Action Required of the Committee

2. The committee is asked to consider the responses, as summarised in paragraphs 6 - 8 below and at **Appendix 1**.
3. Members are requested not to agree future monitoring arrangements of the Wellington Academy project until the committee is in receipt of a further update report following the conclusion of the feasibility phase (likely to be at the 22nd May 2008 meeting).

Background

4. The committee endorsed the task group's final report and recommendations on the 8th November 2007.
5. Subsequent to this endorsement, the report was published and the executive and all other partners involved in the Wellington Academy project were requested to consider and respond to the report and recommendations by the 31st December 2007.

Responses to the Report & Recommendations

6. As requested, the Cabinet Member for Education & Youth Development, the Overall Project Manager (Place Mace) for the Project Steering Group and sponsor, and the Local Authority's Project Manager have responded in full to the Task Group's report, and details of these responses are included at **Appendix 1**.
7. The Headteacher and Governing Body of Castledown School have also responded, as follows:

"Overall, we found the report very positive and supportive of both the Academy and the current school and offered helpful strategies.

The Governing Body have also considered the report and acknowledged that it provided a sound and useful way forward

Specifically for recommendation 8, we would entirely agree with the findings of the Task Group."

8. A response (as below) has also been received from the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Learning & Skills Council (but not yet from the Wiltshire & Swindon LSC):

"We have some concerns about the 250 place size of the sixth form proposed in recommendation 6. Paragraph 4.3.11 makes clear that a sixth form of this size will only be achieved by recruiting learners from other schools who currently progress to alternative post-16 provision.

Equally we are pleased to see the emphasis on collaboration with other local providers in the report and in particular wish to express strong support for recommendation 7(b)."

Conclusion

9. The committee is asked to consider the responses to the Task Group's report, as above and at **Appendix 1**.
10. Rather than agree future arrangements for the Committee's monitoring of the Wellington Academy project's progress today, members are requested to await the next project update report, due in May 2008, following the conclusion of the feasibility phase.

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