

ITEM NO. 2



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SCHOOL FOOD SCRUTINY TASK GROUP

REPORT OF A MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2008 AT COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE

Present:

Members: John English, Peter Fuller, Mollie Groom, Malcolm Hewson and Rebecca MacDonald

Officers: Sarah King (School Food Strategy Co-ordinator), Karen Linaker (Scrutiny Support Officer), Richard Parker (Assistant Director, Resources, Improvement and Young People), Sarah Peters (Corporate Contracts Officer), and Mike Swabey (Head of Procurement & Contract Management)

Other: Alan Bowley (Contract Director – Sodexo)

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

1. Rebecca MacDonald was elected as chairman for this task group.

APOLOGIES

2. Apologies for absence were received from Patrick Coleman.

TASK GROUP'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

3. The task group noted its terms of reference which had been agreed by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on the 11th September 2008. In doing so, members clarified that the third part of its terms of reference - looking at the impact of learning to cook and understand the principles of diet and nutrition – applied only to 11-18 year olds, as provision was already in place in primary schools.

SCOPE OF THE SCHOOL FOOD TASK GROUP

4. Members discussed the scope of this task group topic, and explored how the five distinct work areas listed in the terms of reference might be approached (see copy of slides on pages 4 – 9). The following comments and clarifications were made:

Overall Scope

- (a) members noted the overall scope of the task group's work, including where, how and why the work had been commissioned, the objectives of the task group and what would be the main sources of evidence to draw upon
- (b) the School Food Strategy, (aspects of which the task group had been asked to explore in more depth than the committee had been able to do on the 11th Sept) was heavily influenced by the recommendations of the School Catering Task Group which reported in the summer of 2006
- (c) the timescale for the task group's work needed to be approximately three months, in order that its findings and recommendations could be submitted to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee's 12th March 2009 meeting
- (d) a young person from the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth would be invited to comment as part of the task group's work

Challenges Posed by the Nutrient Standards

- (e) a community dietician from the Wiltshire PCT, who was also a member of the School Nutrition Action Group (the steering group for the School Food Strategy) and a dietician employed by Sodexo would attend the 9th December meeting of the task group to assist it in its investigations into the challenges posed by the nutrient standards
- (f) a structured questionnaire would be devised to assist members in the carrying out of their school visits
- (g) the scope for this area of the task group's work should also provide members with the opportunity to ask questions about those schools which had opted out of providing food according to the nutrient standards, and to understand better what support was available for those schools
- (h) also, the scope should include an examination of Ofsted's revised inspection regime relating to pupil's health

How Many / Which Schools Need to Plan to Share/Build New Food Technology Facilities & Equipment?

- (i) the task group was advised to invite the Head of School Buildings & Places and the Key Stage 3 Strategy Manager to comment on this aspect of the task group's work, particularly as a new funding bid for food technology equipment had just been submitted to the DCSF
- (j) also, members noted that the paper just written for the Implementation Executive on Building Schools for the Future

funding would also be relevant to this aspect of the task group's work

- (k) members would want to explore the different ways in which food technology was taught, from the basics of understanding where food comes from, through to basic preparation skills and on to actual cooking methods
- (l) Sodexo could provide information on the projects it had been involved in, e.g. supporting schools in sharing facilities, involving parents, and in linking the healthy eating agenda to sport
- (m) the restrictions faced by schools in needing to comply with health and safety rules would also be relevant to the considerations of this area of the task group's work

What is the impact of making learning to cook and understand the principles of diet and nutrition, an entitlement for 11-18 year olds?

- (n) members would want to reassure themselves that the Healthy Schools objective - to encourage a 'whole school' approach to healthy eating - was being realised

What are the Principles Underlying the Council's New School Catering Contract

- (o) this would include understanding what alternative food delivery methods were possible, including greater use of food co-operatives and the accessing of food grown locally to schools
- (p) also, members were advised to consider ideas being developed nationally, where a school's provision of food to pupils was not necessarily based on the traditional lunch model, but on alternative models, including breakfast clubs, brunch, afternoon meals etc

What is the role of the Schools Forum in Promoting the Council's School Food Strategy

- (q) members were advised to invite the Chairmen of the Schools Forum, the Primary Heads Forum and the Wiltshire Association for Secondary & Special School Headteachers to comment on this aspect of the task group's work

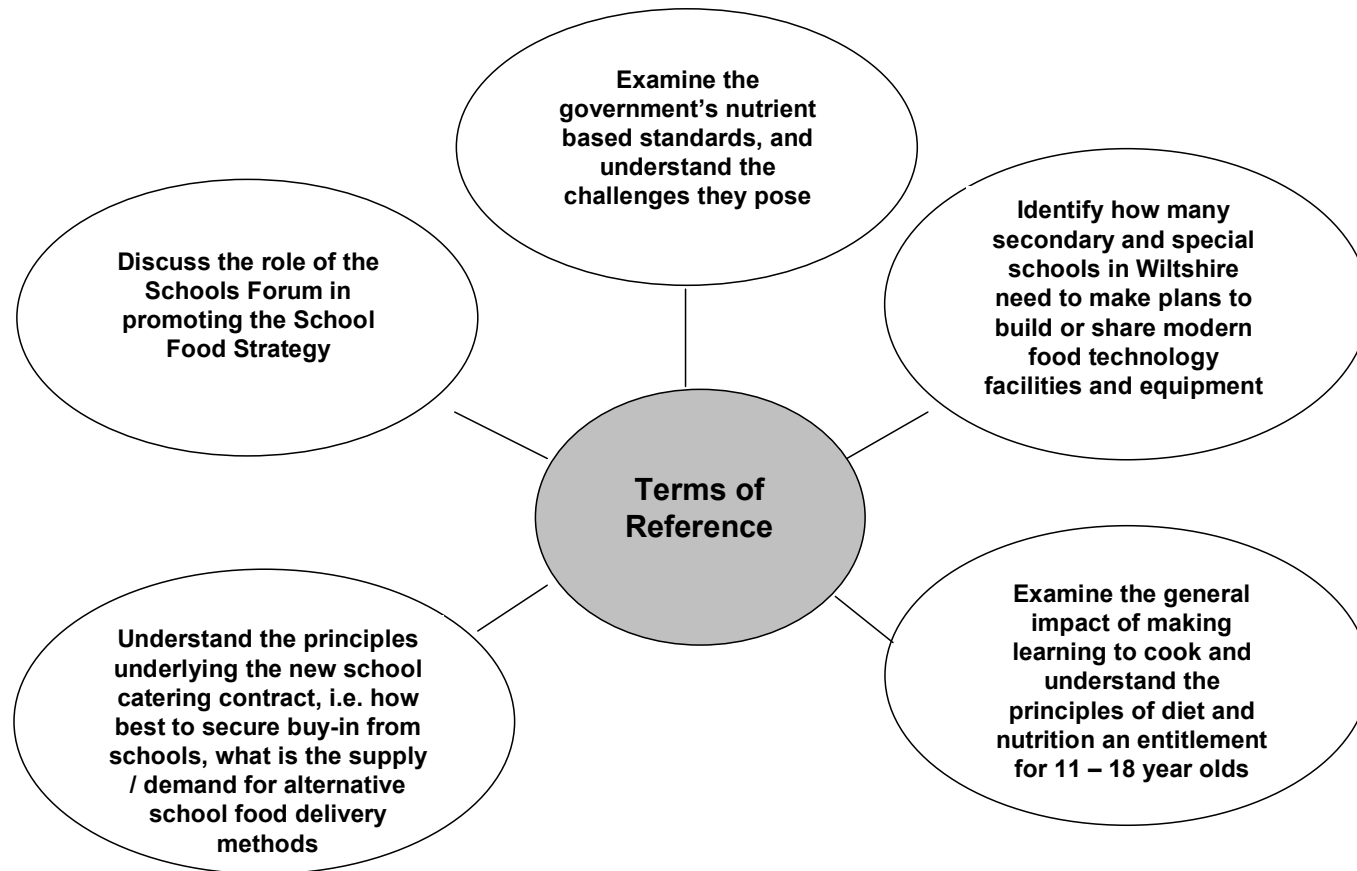
SCRUTINY PROCESS AND MEETING TIMETABLE

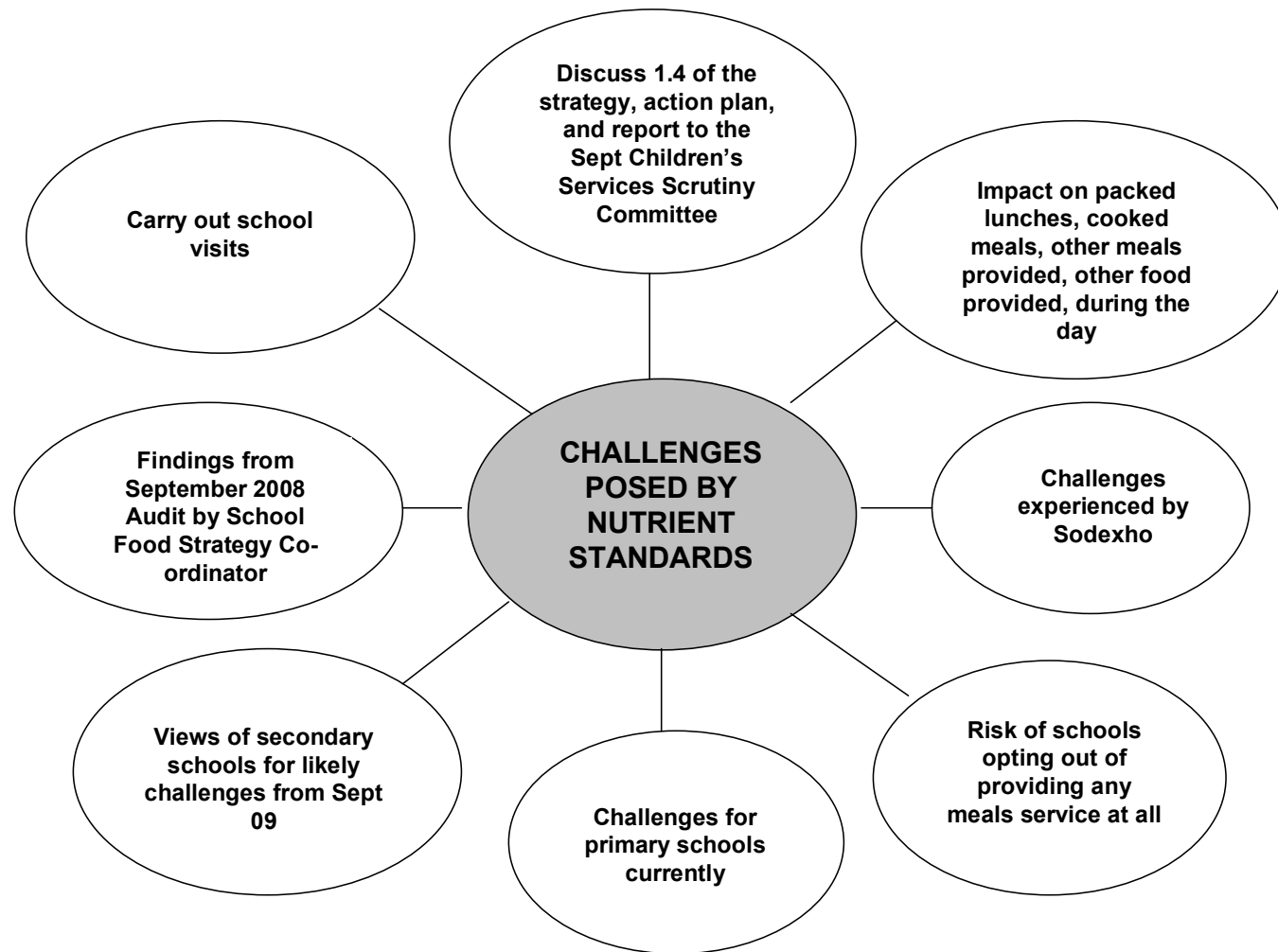
5. Members discussed the table attached on page 10 and confirmed the dates of their future meetings.

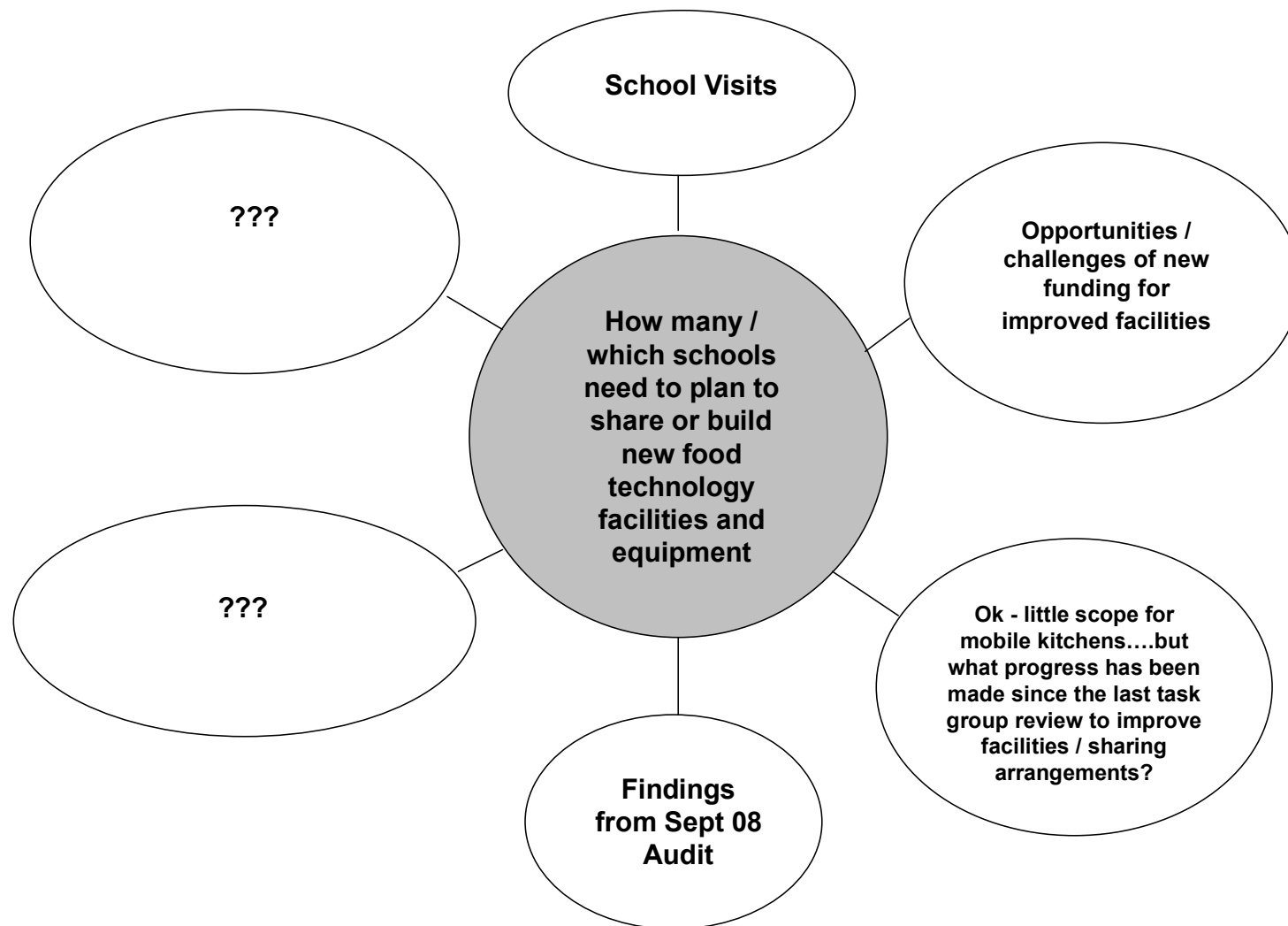
(Duration of meeting: 1.00 pm to 1.45 pm)

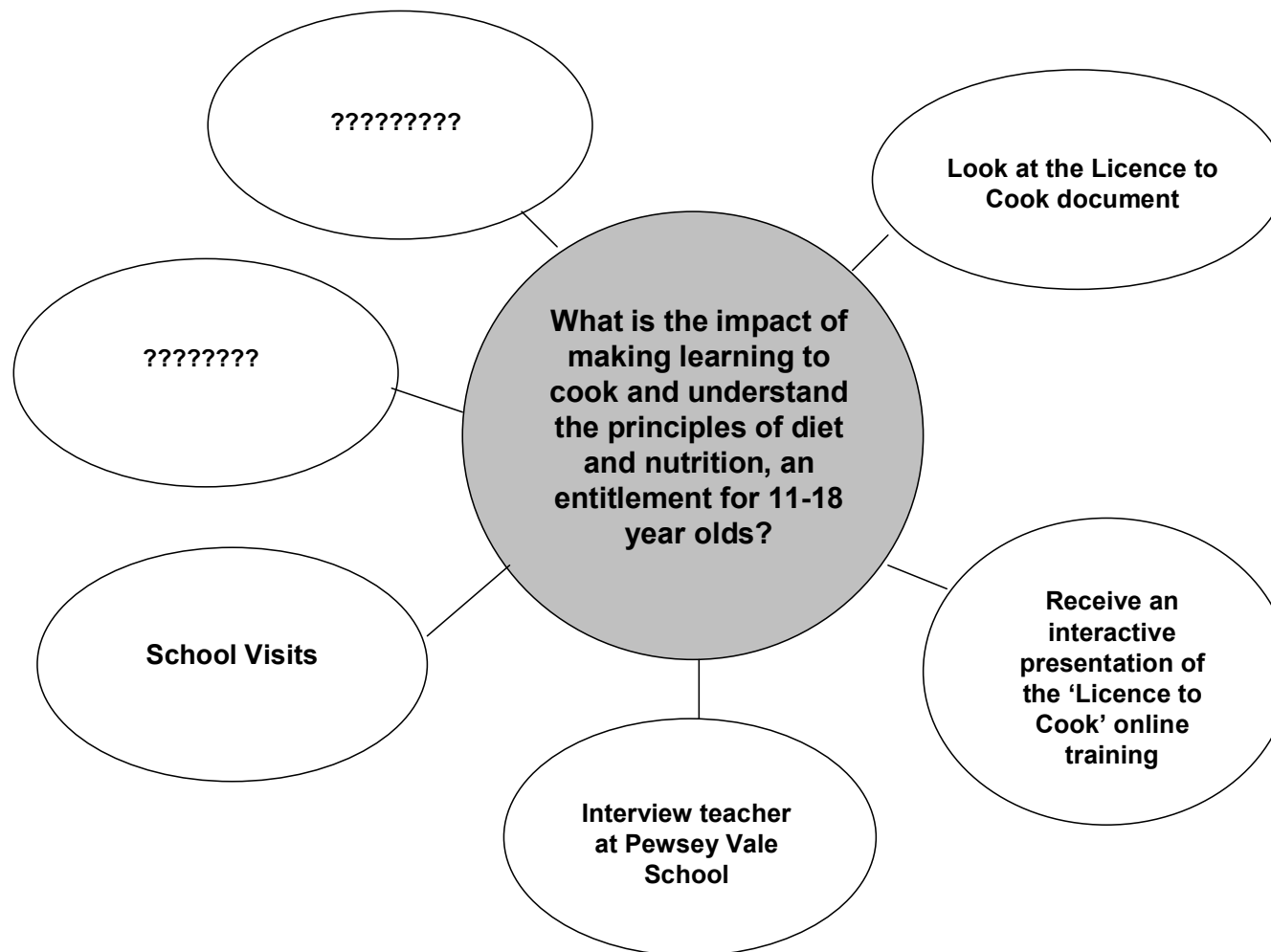
*This record was produced by Karen Linaker, Scrutiny Support Officer, 01225 713056
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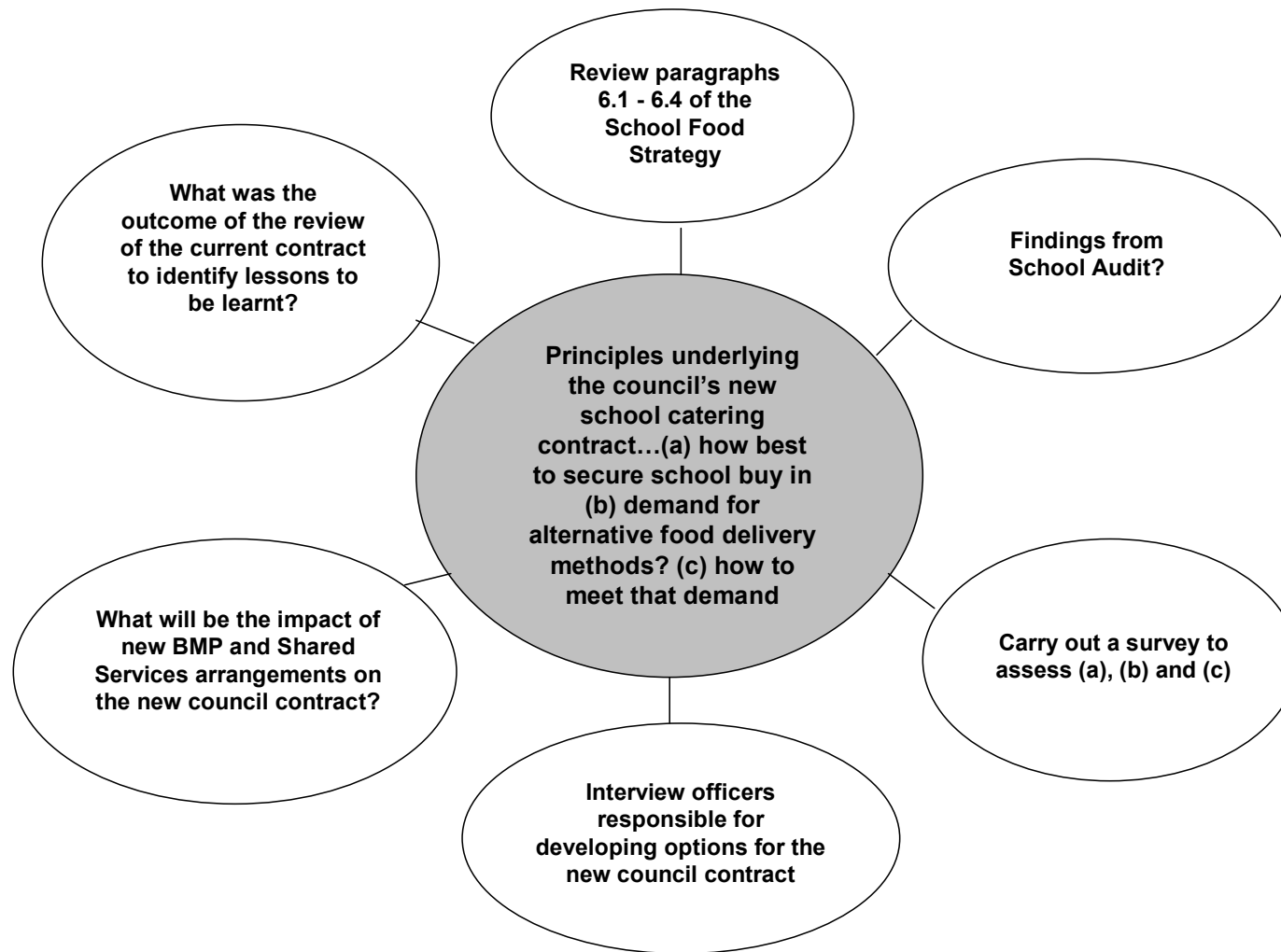
TASK GROUP'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

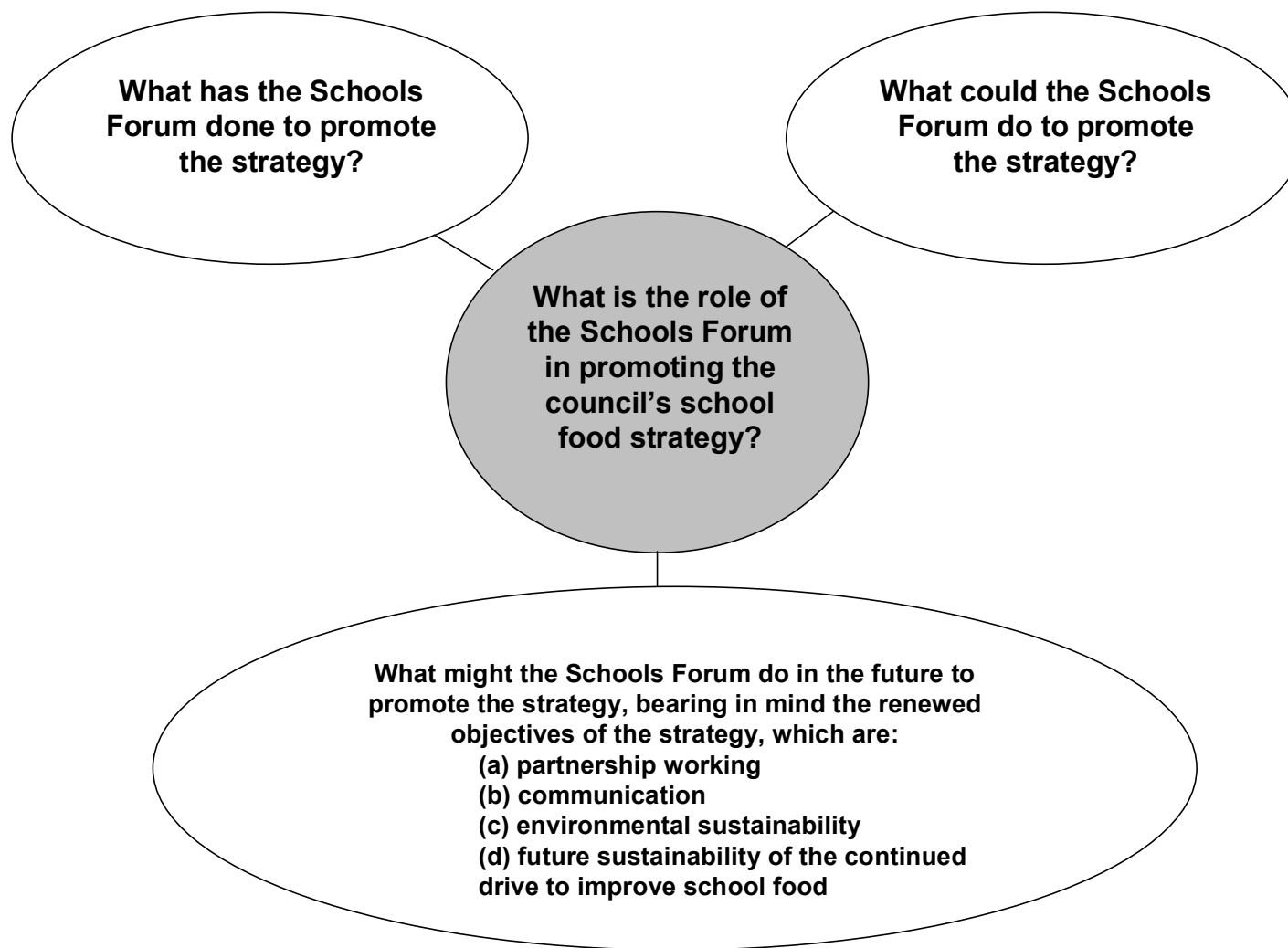












<u>First Meeting:</u> to “scope” and plan this scrutiny exercise	20th November 12.45pm
<u>Second Meeting:</u> to consider the: (a) challenges posed by the government’s nutrient based standards (b) how many / which secondary and special schools in Wiltshire will need to make plans to build or share modern food technology facilities and equipment (c) general impact of making learning to cook and understand the principles of diet and nutrition, an entitlement for 11 – 18 year olds	9th December – 11.15am
<u>School Visits</u> (to see first hand impact of (a) and (c) above)	January 09
<u>School Survey</u> (to find out what alternative school food delivery methods are being used – their advantages/disadvantages)	January 09
<u>Third Meeting:</u> to consider the: (a) outcome from school visits (b) further consideration of the impact of making learning to cook and understand the principles of diet and nutrition, an entitlement for 11-18 year olds	29th Jan 09 – 1.30pm
<u>Fourth Meeting:</u> to consider the: (a) principles underlying the new school catering contract, particularly to: i. see how best to secure buy in from schools ii. to understand better the supply and demand for alternative school food delivery methods (b) role of the Schools Forum in promoting the council’s School Food Strategy	10th Feb – 12.30pm
<u>Final Meeting of task group:</u> to agree the final report and recommendations	25th Feb – 10.30am