

# Report of the School Readiness Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

Cabinet – 20 April 2017

## SCRUTINY INQUIRY INTO SCHOOL READINESS

<b>Purpose:</b>	This report presents the findings, conclusions and recommendations resulting from the Panel's Inquiry into school readiness. The Cabinet is required to consider the recommendations and agree action.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Council Constitution.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Legal, Finance
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) Cabinet receives the report and tasks the relevant Cabinet Member to report back to a Cabinet meeting with a written response to the scrutiny recommendations and proposed action(s) for Cabinet decision.
<b>Report Authors:</b>	Councillor Hazel Morris (Panel Convener) Michelle Roberts (Scrutiny Officer)
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Carl Billingsley
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Wendy Parkin
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Phil Couch

### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report presents the findings, conclusions and recommendations resulting from the scrutiny inquiry into school readiness. The Scrutiny Panel's final report, appended, requires a Cabinet decision.

1.2 In accordance with the Council Constitution reports from scrutiny to the Executive are presented to the first available Cabinet meeting. The convener of the Panel will present the report and accompanying recommendations.

### 2.0 Scrutiny Programme Committee

2.1 On 10 April 2017 the Scrutiny Programme Committee discussed and agreed the report for submission to Cabinet.

### 3.0 Cabinet Decision

3.1 At this meeting the role of the Cabinet is to receive the report and task the relevant Cabinet Member to prepare a written response on behalf of

Cabinet. The Cabinet Member's response report should be scheduled for a future Cabinet meeting **no later than two months** following formal receipt of the scrutiny report\*.

\*It is acknowledged that due to the local elections the normal timescales will not apply and that that cabinet may not be able to respond until the new municipal year.

- 3.2 In their response report the Cabinet Member should recommend approval or rejection of each of the scrutiny recommendations together with an explanation. Within their report the Cabinet Member should also provide a proposed action plan to show what steps are being or will be taken to implement recommendations. Cabinet will then make a decision on the Cabinet Member's response report.

#### **4.0 Follow Up**

- 4.1 The Panel will schedule a follow up on progress with the implementation of the action plan agreed by Cabinet and impact of the scrutiny inquiry, and report their views to the Scrutiny Programme Committee. The panel convener and the Scrutiny Officer will ensure that a review of progress against accepted recommendations is scheduled into future work programmes. Usually a progress report will be requested by the Panel within 6-12 months after the action plan has been agreed by Cabinet.

#### **5.0 Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 5.1 Equality and engagement issues were formally considered at the scoping stage of this inquiry and borne in mind by the panel throughout evidence gathering. The Cabinet Member will need to ensure that implications are considered via application of the corporate Equality Impact Assessment process when considering the response to the recommendations.

#### **6.0 Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications at this stage.

#### **7.0 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications to this report. Any potential implications will be outlined in the Cabinet response.

**Background Papers:** None.

**Appendices:** Appendix A – Final Inquiry Report.