

**REPORT FOR: EDUCATION  
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

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**Date of Meeting:** 27 June 2011

**Subject:** INFORMATION REPORT - Local  
Authority Strategic Role for Education  
in Harrow

**Responsible Officer:** Catherine Doran, Corporate Director  
Children's Services

**Exempt:** No

**Enclosures:** Annexe A - Summary of the DfE  
Schools White Paper and Education Bill  
Implications

## **Section 1 – Summary**

This report provides the Education Consultative Forum with an update about the future strategic role of the Council for education in Harrow.

**FOR INFORMATION**

## **Section 2 – Report**

1. At its meeting on 6 April 2011, the Education Consultative Forum received a report about some of the changes to schools and the Council arising from the Education Bill 2011 and invited members to comment on the future role of the Education Consultative Forum.

2. The views of the Forum were invited to form part of a report to Cabinet later in the year, to suggest efficient and effective ways for the Forum to engage on future education matters. The Education Forum noted the report and made the following comments.
3. Members of the Forum felt that given the substantial changes occurring within education nationally, it was difficult to identify the exact role of the Forum at this stage. Further consideration was needed, and options should be kept open.
4. A possible way forward would be for an informal group of EdCF representatives to consider the remit and options, including representation, of a forum focussed on education matters. It was also noted that there were current vacancies for Parent representatives on the Forum, whose involvement in such discussions was key.
5. It was suggested that the report to Cabinet should outline the changes to the Council and schools arising from the Schools White Paper and the Education Bill and the implications of the legislation, if enacted.

### **Section 3 – Further Information**

6. A report was presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 19 May 2011, which included an update from the Education Consultative Forum. Cabinet agreed in principle to the consultation mechanisms being reviewed and revised and recommendations being brought back to a future meeting of Cabinet. Cabinet requested a further report be received in the Autumn to confirm the progress in the following areas:
  - Decision Making and Consultation Forum
  - Strategic Role for Schools
  - Support services for Schools.
7. Attached at Annexe A is a summary of the DfE Schools White Paper and Education Bill Implications. The Annexe summarises the future role of the Local Authority by key areas. High level details are then provided on the emerging Government policy, the local position in Harrow and an up-date for June 2011. This is a dynamic document and may form part of an action plan when the Education Strategy and School Organisation services in the Children's Services new operating model become operational in September.
8. Work will be progressed by officers in the coming months to review the consultation mechanisms.

### **Section 4 – Financial Implications**

9. There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report as the review will be undertaken from within existing resources. If the review

proposes changes to services these would be subject to further consideration and approval, with any financial implications highlighted and incorporated into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

## **Section 5 – Corporate Priorities**

10. These considerations will support the Council's Corporate Priorities for 2011-2012:

- United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads
- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need

Name:	Emma Stabler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date:	14 June 2011		

## **Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Johanna Morgan, Head of School Organisation Strategy, Children's Services, 020 8736 6841

### **Background Papers:**

Report to Cabinet on 19 May 2011 - Local Authority's Strategic Role for Education in Harrow

<http://www2.harrow.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=249&MId=60264>

The Importance of Teaching: The Schools White Paper 2010

<http://www.education.gov.uk/b0068570/the-importance-of-teaching/>

The Education Bill 2011

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/educationbill/a0073748/education-bill>