

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL
FUTURE LOCAL AUTHORITY INVOLVEMENT IN ACADEMIES – ACTION PLAN**

23 May 2013

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p>1. That Middlesbrough Council engages prospective and existing academies in early dialogue and close liaison to:</p> <p>a) Ensure that they are aware of the local authority’s statutory responsibilities (to provide sufficiency of places, education for vulnerable children and to promote high standards/address under performance) and how these can be best fulfilled.</p> <p>b) Ensure that, as far as possible, all academies and stakeholders work together - and not in isolation - to ensure a continued, collective commitment to providing first class education in Middlesbrough for the benefit of all children and young people. This should include measures to ensure that current low numbers of exclusions are maintained and that adequate educational provision continues to be made for all vulnerable learners.</p>	<p>Recognition of LA statutory responsibilities when scoping work on priorities through the Middlesbrough Achievement Partnership (MAP). Place Planning and SEN & Disabilities Task & Finish Groups to be established with clear remits, representative membership and action plans.</p> <p>MAP provides the collective forum, inclusive of academies and maintained schools, which will drive the strategic vision.</p> <p>Middlesbrough Inclusion Collaborative (MIC) will work closely with the LA to ensure the capacity and quality of provision of SEN places</p>	<p>Julie Cordiner / Gary Maddison</p> <p>Julie Cordiner</p> <p>Kirsten Dinsdale / Linda Harries</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>December 2013</p> <p>April 2014</p> <p>September 2013</p>

<p>c) Agree, if possible, a borough-wide policy on admissions and exclusions.</p>	<p>The ethos of the exclusions trial will be maintained through MAP to keep exclusions to a minimum.</p> <p>Secondary Education Improvement Partnership (SEIP) to continue to operate as a behaviour partnership to increase access to good quality alternative provision at 14 – 16 and MAP to continue the drive to agree an area-wide approach to admissions</p>	<p>Chris Drew / Linda Harries</p> <p>Paul Mitchell / Gary Maddison</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>July 2013</p> <p>June 2013</p>
<p>2. That the Government's Department for Education (DfE) is urged to provide clarification as soon as possible on the definitive position regarding local authorities' responsibility for achievement/attainment in academies. Irrespective of any statutory role, a mechanism should be developed by Middlesbrough Council to collectively engage academies in discussions regarding any areas of future concern, including performance. The Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel should be involved in this process.</p>	<p>LA inspection framework to be clarified via national conference</p> <p>Strategy document 'Towards a Peer-led Model of Accountability' to be agreed with head teachers, including the development of local challenge boards</p> <p>ISOS Partnership to review LA progress on challenge and accountability</p>	<p>John Catron</p> <p>John Catron</p> <p>John Catron</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>11.03.13</p> <p>March 2013</p> <p>March 2013</p>
<p>3. That the Council determines which of its support services should be made available to schools and academies on a trading basis and ensures that systems and processes are established to ensure that these services:</p> <p>a) Are commercially orientated, flexible and able to respond and adapt to any necessary future change and challenge.</p> <p>b) Are actively marketed to schools and</p>	<p>Cross council working group (CCWG) to implement the role of Business Relationship Manager (BRM)</p> <p>BRM to liaise with schools and</p>	<p>Paul Mitchell</p> <p>Paul Mitchell</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>April 2013</p> <p>April 2013</p>

academies to ensure that they are aware of all available services and their benefits.	produce local offer to ensure services are fully traded			
4. That following any increase in academy numbers in Middlesbrough, and in order to assist Middlesbrough Council in its duty of ensuring sufficiency of school places, close monitoring of pupil numbers and places is undertaken. Action should then be taken in conjunction/consultation with all education providers, to ensure that the authority's duty is fulfilled, as well as ensuring that any maintained schools continue to be viable. This should also ensure that measures are in place to deal with any future increases in pupil numbers.	MAP Place Planning T&FG established to provide the analysis and projections and as a forum to resolve the tensions in this area.	Julie Cordiner / Gary Maddison	N/A	April 2014
5. That the position is clarified regarding ownership of some of the Oakfields Academy site by the Hustler Trust. In particular, clarification should be sought on the Trust's position concerning possible future disposal of land used for playing fields.	The land ownership issues have been resolved and there are no proposals by the Hustler Trust to sell off any playing field.	John Catron	N/A	April 2013
6. That in order to ensure continue democratically accountable representation, academies are actively encouraged to appoint local Councillors to governing bodies.	MAP representation at Scrutiny will ensure that maintained and academy schools are held to account for future educational outcomes and performance	Julie Cordiner / Sheila Hauxwell / Peter Coady	N/A	Sept 2013