

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 5 November 2012

Title: Recommendation from Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee on Kings Priory School.

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Service: Legal, Governance and Commercial Services

Directorate: Chief Executive's

Wards affected: All

1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to present a recommendation of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee in relation to the formulation of the Council's response to the Secretary of State for Education on the proposals to create Kings Priory School in Tynemouth as an academy school from September 2013.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

1.2.1 The Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee have made the following recommendation:

"That Cabinet be requested to submit to Council for determination the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Learning's recommended response to the Secretary of State on the proposals for Kings Priory School".

1.2.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to consider the information in this report and determine whether to approve the recommendation of the sub-committee as it stands and refer to Cabinet for consideration or amend it and refer to Cabinet for consideration.

1.3 Information:

1.3.1 At the meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee on 22nd October 2012 an update was provided on the current position of the proposed merger and conversion to an academy of Priory Primary School and The Kings School in Tynemouth.

1.3.2 The Sub-Committee was informed that although an Academy Order had been issued by the Secretary of State, it was a procedural step and did not create the Academy. The Secretary of State would take a final decision as to whether or not to approve the conversion to an Academy. If considered necessary the Council could make representations to the Secretary of State to ask for the

proposals to be refused or modified in order to prevent or reduce the impact on other schools in the Borough.

- 1.3.3 The Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee considered that the proposals would have a significant impact on the provision of education in the borough and the decision as to whether or not the Council would make representations to the Secretary of State for Education and what those representations would be, was something which should be determined by all elected members of the Council.

1.3.4 Legal Implications

Under the Council's executive arrangements, Cabinet has responsibility for all matters of Council business except where otherwise provided for in law, in particular by the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000. Under these provisions, some Council functions are reserved to full Council, and others are shared between Cabinet and Council.

The responsibility for making the Council's formal representations to the Secretary of State for Education is a matter for Cabinet. Cabinet may consult with Full Council or gather the views of elected members, for example, through a cross party group, prior to determining the content of the representations to be submitted.