

REQUEST FOR A COOPERATIVE REVIEW



Please submit this document to Democratic Support once complete.

The request will be submitted to the Co-operative Scrutiny Board for consideration against the approval criteria and you will be notified of its success. If the Board approve the request for a Co-operative Review on the subject matter below then a project plan will be completed and you may be asked for further information.

What is the name of the review?	Narrowing the Gap in schools
Please provide a brief outline of the subject and scope of the review?	There is a national focus on reducing the gap between the attainment of pupils on free school meals (FSM) and their non-free school meals peers. The government's intention is to ensure that those children who began life with some social disadvantage are not disadvantaged further through under-performance in educational terms. The review will expand on this to also specifically focus on the attainment and take up of FSM from Looked After Children (LAC) and children from service families. Additionally the review will address the concerns of the welfare reforms and its impacts on the eligibility of FSM and free school transport. Furthermore, the review will consider the financial burden placed on parents of school aged children from non-school uniform days and Proms.
Please outline the reasons as to why you believe a review needs to take place?	The main reasons of the review are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is a key Child Poverty area of focus. - It is a national focus and an area of concern for the public. - The impact of welfare reforms on an already potentially disadvantaged group. - The potential impact on the FSM and school transport budgets.
What will the review attempt to achieve?	It will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make recommendations to schools on the promotion and take up of FSM. - Demonstrate that the panel has reviewed the issues concerned and reviewed the allocation of resources in line with Council priorities.
Who will benefit from the review?	The main beneficiaries will be children and families across the city, particularly those who are the most socially disadvantaged.
How long do you think	The review is anticipated to take four months, and will hold

the review might take?	four separate public meetings.
When do you think the review should commence and why?	<p>The review will commence in September 2013, with a project planning meeting scheduled in August.</p> <p>The reasons for the review starting in September is that this is the earliest time that the review could be commenced to ensure that schools are encouraged, and able, to participate following the end of the Summer Term holiday.</p>
When do you think the review should be completed by and why?	<p>The review is anticipated to be completed in December 2013.</p> <p>This will allow adequate time for the panel to complete the review and consider all the relevant and required evidence and witness statements and ensure that any recommendations have a suitable period of time to be implemented for either the next financial year or start of the 2014-2015 school year.</p>
Review requested by?	Councillor Sally Bowie

Received in Democratic Support Section:	Reviewed by the Co-operative Scrutiny Board:
Date: 26 July 2013	Date:
Scrutiny Review Approved/Rejected	
If approved initial Project Plan meeting date:	12 August 2013