

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

<b>Subject:</b>	Education, Participation and Skills Transformation: Plan for the Department – Options for the Future.
<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	31 October 2017
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Beer, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
<b>CMT Member:</b>	Carole Burgoyne, Strategic Director for People
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<b>Ref:</b>	JAH.JEG (CAB) 10 (05/10/2017)
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Part:</b>	I

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### **Purpose of the report:**

The Council has set out a clear and persuasive case for the importance of education within the Plymouth Plan. Government policy over recent years has radically impacted the role of local authorities in respect of education, with more schools moving to academies.

The Plan for Education guides the strategic ambition and direction for the City Council in respect of education. The purpose of this document is to set out the options for the future shape of the Education, Participation and Skills Department in light of government policy, Council strategy and the statutory requirements placed on the Department.

The paper attached details the work undertaken with schools to date across Plymouth to test their support for a partnership approach. Sixty percent of schools have agreed in principle to continue the dialogue with the department in preparing together a business case defining the scope and delivery vehicle to achieve Option 4 that would enable a partnership to be established with schools to run the majority of services currently within the Education, Participation and Skills Department.

Educational standards over recent years in Plymouth have shown some variation. However, in general, attainment has been below average for at all key stages and by the end of KS4, results remain below the national average in terms of attainment and progress. At Post-16 the percentage of pupils achieving three or more 'A' Levels grades A\*-E is also below the national average. This new arrangement would secure the long-term commitment to schools and to support the work of the Plymouth Education Board in raising aspiration and attainment in the city.

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### **The Council Corporate Plan 2016/19:**

#### **Growing**

- Provides sufficient education facilities for the growing number of young people in Plymouth to improve their education and employment opportunities.

- Provides the appropriate support for young people with SEND as an integral part of the city's top performing education system.

### **Caring**

- Provides improved facilities that ensure children and young people are safe and confident in their communities, narrowing the gap in equality of access, helping them take control of their lives and communities.

### **Plymouth Plan**

- Supports the growth and development of the city by ensuring we have sufficient school places available in the City.

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### **Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications, Including finance, human, IT and land:**

The financial requirements for the Education, Participation and Skills Department to create a partnership with schools on a long-term basis are that the partnership could show how the 2017/18 remaining cost pressure is met of £400,000 and to give confidence that the structure created could find savings in 2018/19 of a further £349,000.

In seeking to resolve this with partners, it should be noted that the Council's contribution to the partnership would amount to:

- Up to £9 million of direct revenue funding, depending on the natures of services within the partnership
- The associated support services charges that add to the £9m of direct cost to give the total cost
- The £1.4 million of pension costs that the Council has met from its corporate resources.

Therefore, whilst there is a remaining financial challenge, the move to a partnership model is matched by a real commitment in recurring resources from the Council.

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### **Other Implications e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:**

Sufficiency of early education and school places in more disadvantaged neighbourhoods are a particular focus to ensure that families experiencing poverty can access high quality places close to their home.

This will then enable access to high quality provision to improve their education and employment opportunities.

This meets the priority in the Child Poverty Action Plan of narrowing the attainment gap.

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### **Equality and Diversity:**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? Yes

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### **Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:**

That Cabinet approve the attached report to enable the further work to continue with schools to develop a business case for future partnership working.

That Cabinet note the budget requirement of a minimum funding level of £9.2m for 2018/19 for the partnership to progress.

That Cabinet endorse that educational attainment is a priority area for the Council and support the development of a robust plan by the Plymouth Education Board alongside the DFE.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The paper identifies and evaluates five potential options for the future of the department.

The Council could be failing in its statutory duty to provide sufficient places in schools for parents and pupils within the city if it chose not to progress the partnership approach.

The Regional Schools Commissioner has an expectation that the Local Authority will understand progress and attainment of all schools in the city and the work of the new Plymouth Education Board is a priority for the City. In addition, the LA will continue to have the ability to issue warning notices to maintained schools as necessary as will the Regional Schools Commissioner for all schools.

**Published work / information:**

**Background papers:**

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

**Sign off:**

Fin	djn1 718. 119	Leg	lt/29 189/ 2010 17	Mon Off	lt/dvs/2 9189,	HR	N/A	Assets	N /A	IT	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating SMT Member: Judith Harwood													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the content of the report? Yes													