

Policy and Scrutiny Scoping Document

Committee	Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Topic	Academies	Ref: CYP_SCR_029 File Ref: E.41.01/7/15
Objective	To increase Members knowledge about the implications for the County Council of schools deciding to seek, and then achieving, Academy status	
Reasons for undertaking review	It is accepted that any publicly maintained school may seek Academy status. The Committee needs to be aware of the impact this will have on the County Council and the services it provides should large numbers, and possibly all, County and Foundation Schools seek Academy status	
Topic suggested by	Chairman of the Committee	
Method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial briefing to define scope • Task & Finish Group • Commission • Full Committee 	YES.	
Membership	N/A	
Issues to be addressed	<p>What is the current position on the number of schools that have achieved or are seeking Academy status?</p> <p>Under current legislation, what formal relationships (if any) exist between the Council and an Academy? What is expected from LA Governors who serve on Academy Governing Bodies?</p> <p>How is money allocated between the Council and the Academy from central funds? Is an Academy obliged to buy in any services from the Council (as the Local Education orientated Authority)?</p> <p>What charges are made for Education Welfare Services?</p> <p>What obligations are there on Academies for their staff to take part in training courses? particularly on safeguarding courses and anything organised by the Essex Safeguarding Children's Board?</p> <p>What are the potential implications for smaller schools that may not have the</p>	

	<p>management or administrative expertise to run their own affairs? Can they work as clusters?</p> <p>What impact is likely on the school admission arrangements – will co-ordinated arrangements continue to operate? and how will planning of future school needs in a geographical area take place?</p>		
Sources of Evidence and witnesses	<p>Cabinet Member</p> <p>ECC Schools, Children's and Families Directorate</p>		
Work Programme	Discussion at Committee meeting on 3 November 2011		
Indicators of Success	TBA		
Meeting the CfPS Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Critical Friend Challenge to Executive</i> • <i>Reflect Public voice and concerns</i> • <i>Own the scrutiny process</i> • <i>Impact on service delivery</i> 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>		
Diversity and Equality	<p>Potential impact on the viability of schools being able to undertake all the functions they currently carry out</p> <p>Potential impact on the viability of the Council to provide services on an ongoing basis</p>		
Date agreed by Committee	(in outline) July 2011 and (in more detail) September 2011		
Future Action	TBA once the matter has been considered by the Committee		
Governance Officer	Graham Redgwell	Committee Officer	Matthew Waldie
Service Lead Officer(s)	Councillor Stephen Castle, Cabinet Member, with support officers as required		

