

		AGENDA ITEM 5
		CYP/01/12
Committee:	Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	5 January 2012	
<u>Academies</u>		
Enquiries to:	Graham Redgwell	

Introduction

Councillor Stephen Castle, Cabinet Member for Education and the 2012 Games, and Terry Reynolds, Director for Learning, School Improvement and Early Years, have been invited to this meeting to discuss a range of issues in relation to Academies.

Members will appreciate that schools themselves decide whether they become Academies or not, so the discussion will not cover that aspect but concentrate on the implications for the County Council, as the local authority with responsibility for education.

Discussion

The attendees have been asked to cover the following matters, although this does not prevent any other points being raised on the day:-

The general situation

- How many Essex Schools have become Academies (show as xx out of xx in primary and secondary sectors).
- How many Academies cover more than one school.
- How many of the remaining schools have indicated a wish to become an Academy in the next 6 or 12 months.
- What is an Academy Trust. Does the local authority deal with the Trust or the Governing Body, or both.
- At what point does the Council lose the funding when a school becomes an Academy (i.e. at actual time or start of financial year, etc).

- Does the LA retain any powers of inspection.
- What powers does the LA have in regard to Academies admission policies.
- What are the implications (if any) in respect of school transport, school crossing patrols, opening hours and hours of education provided per week, dealing with children in care, and making policies and procedures available to parents and prospective parents.

Implications on the Local Authority

- What services does the LA provide for Academies to buy into. Must this be done in 'competition' with private providers.
- Is there a charging policy for these services (and can it be divulged). How are such services made to non Academy schools and how are they budgeted for.
- At what level of use would providing services no longer be viable.
- What are the implications for staffing levels and how is this being addressed.
- What happens if an Academy goes into special measures. Is the LA expected to intervene and assist (either legally or morally).
- What happens if an Academy can no longer pay its way and indicates that it is to close.

An initial response from the Cabinet Member is annexed to this item.
