

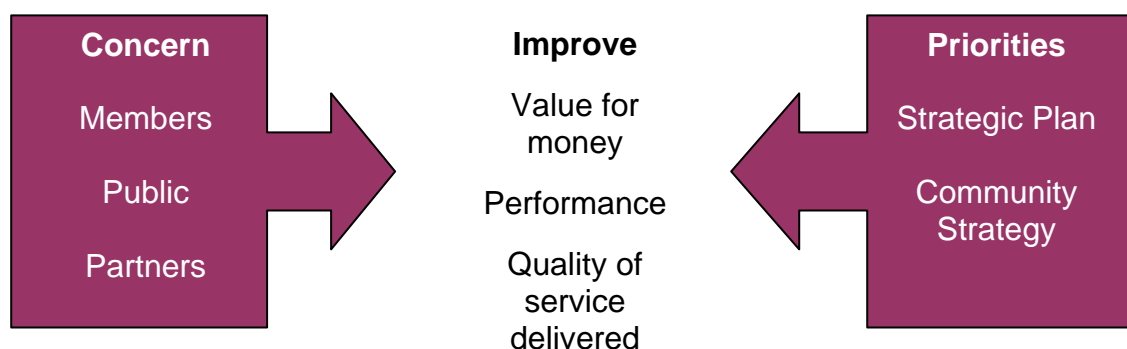
Education Development Plan (EDP) Topic Select

Scoping Questions

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the following questions when scoping a Scrutiny review:

Issues for Scrutiny should reflect:

- i. Concern of Members, the Public or Partners
- ii. Strategic Priorities for the delivery of services and
- iii. Clear Outcomes to improve value for money, performance or to change the priorities of the Council.



A. Aims

What are the aims of the review?

- Why are Nottinghamshire schools placed last in comparison with their 10 nationally recognised statistical neighbours?

How does the review link to priorities?

Strategic Plan : Learning and Earning

- Improve the educational attainment of children and their appreciation of learning
- Work to secure a significant improvement in GCSE results across Nottinghamshire
- Work to ensure schools are at the centre of our local communities

How does the review link to community concern?

- Through an examination of complaints from the public related to this issue;
- Through a 'survey' of all Members' concerns regarding attainment levels in our schools.

What outcomes are sought?

- An evidence based re-assessment of the original Education and Lifelong Select Committee's report into this issue in light of further information received from the Education Department and through widening the number of schools visited and interviewed;

Which specific areas will the review examine?

- Examine the original Committee report and identify areas which require clarification and/or further examination before a conclusion can be reached;
- Obtain factual and up to date information on the Local Authority's work and statistics in areas such as vocational education;
- Cross reference the findings of previous reports with the conclusions of this review;
- Widen the intake of evidence from schools by visiting more Nottinghamshire schools and seeking follow up information where necessary from those already visited.

Key Lines of Enquiry

- Is the service achieving what it set out to achieve?
- What can we improve?
- How do we compare with others?
- Are we delivering value for money?
- How do we know we are delivering value for money?
- What are the community's priorities?
- What are the regional/national/international priorities?
- Are we doing what users / non users / local residents want?
- Are users' needs central to the service?
- What are the strategic and operational risks?
- What intelligence is available to predict future change?
- Is there effective partnership working?
- Why are we doing/providing this?
- Should we still be doing/providing this?
- Who is the most appropriate deliverer of the service?

B. TimetableWhen will the review commence ?

October 2006

When will the review conclude?

January 2007

C. Information and consulteesWhat information do Members require to enable them to start work on the review?

- The original report of the Education and Lifelong Learning Select Committee
- A response from the Local Authority to issues raised within this report

- Statutory co-opted members as required by law have been invited to participate in this review as it falls within the definition of an education related scrutiny study
- Non-Statutory co-opted members will be provided an opportunity to contribute should they wish to throughout the process.

Are there any key witnesses/visits/documents?

- Childrens Services Department personnel
- Headteachers from identified schools

How will the review involve the public?

- A press release announcing the review will allow public contact with relevant officers
- The review will be featured on the Council's website also allowing public contact with relevant officers

D. Resources

Are there any specific resource implications for the review?

- Support for the review will be co-ordinated and led by the Scrutiny Team as part of their normal duties;
- Councillors selected to sit on the Committee will be expected to allocate time within their diaries to facilitate sometimes irregularly scheduled Committee meetings and possible site visits;
- Representatives from the Childrens Services Department will be invited to participate in supporting the review;
- Certain Headteachers may be invited to contribute to the review and may in some cases wish to claim expenses/fees.

E. Departmental View

What does the department responsible say about the review?

The Department's response will form the basis of the review itself and will be presented at its first meeting.

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young Peoples Services, Councillor James O'Riordan, outlined Cabinet's overview of the original document and its advice regarding further scrutiny at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 12 July.