



meeting	EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE	
date	28 June 2005	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCRUTINY

Terms of Reference and Annual Review

Purpose of the Report

1. This report introduces the Committee to its Terms of Reference for 2005/06 and to the services and strategic priorities that are encompassed within them.

Terms of Reference

2. The Terms of Reference for the Education & Lifelong Learning Select Committee as defined by Article 6 – Select Committees of the County Council's Constitution, are to provide:
 - An overview of the Council's functions and performance as a Local Education Authority.

Strategic Priorities

3. The Terms of Reference for the Select Committee includes scrutiny of the following strategic priorities from the Council's Strategic Plan 2001-2005:

Learning - Standards of education and achievement in Nottinghamshire schools will improve in all age ranges. We will strive to secure rates of improvement which are above national averages. We will strengthen our commitment to early years education, adult, community and lifelong learning and basic skills.

- Raise the expectations and aspirations of children, parents and adults, especially those living in disadvantaged communities, and young people who are disaffected
- Increase the number and range of opportunities for adult, community and lifelong learning through more local delivery and the use of information technology. In addition, we will encourage and facilitate community involvement in schools so that

communities become a learning resource for schools and schools become part of communities

- Raise the achievement of pupils at all stages of school education
- Stimulate further improvement in our schools through a focus on literacy, numeracy, information and communications technology
- Raise standards in secondary schools and review sixth form arrangements
- Reduce class sizes and the number of surplus spaces and improve school buildings
- Secure funded Early Years education places in a range of school, pre-school, playgroup and day nursery settings for all 3 and 4 year old children whose parents desire it by September 2004
- Improve basic skills and support for and achievement of children with Special Educational Needs.

Learning Targets

- Increase the percentage of 11 year-olds achieving Level 4 in English and Mathematics national tests
- Increase the percentage of 16 year-olds achieving at least one GCSE pass grade to 96.5% and the percentage achieving five good passes at GCSE to 51%
- Reduce the number of Nottinghamshire schools judged to have serious weaknesses or in need of special measures by Ofsted inspectors from 13 to 4 (1% of the schools)
- Reduce the percentage of classes with more than 30 pupils from 40% to less than 34%
- Increase from 10,000 to 11,000 per annum the number of learning opportunities taken up through Adult and Community Learning services.

Cabinet Portfolios

4. The Terms of Reference for the Select Committee includes scrutiny of the following Cabinet Portfolios:
 - Education – Councillor M Storey

Services

5. Di Morton, Assistant Director (Strategic Support Services), Education, will make a presentation to the Committee introducing Members to the range of services provided by the Department that fall within the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Previous Scrutiny

6. A review of scrutiny conducted during the last municipal year is attached at **Appendix A** for information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Select Committee notes the Terms of Reference and Annual Review.

Councillor Kevan Wakefield

Chair, Education and Lifelong Learning Select Committee