



meeting **CABINET**

date **7 June 2006**

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE

Education Development Plan – Attainment & Targets Study Group Final Report

1. Purpose of report

1.1 This paper presents the final report to Cabinet of the Education and Lifelong Learning Select Committee's scrutiny review, the "Education Development Plan (EDP) – Attainment and Targets".

2. Information and Advice

2.1 The Education and Lifelong Learning Select Committee of Nottinghamshire County Council agreed to undertake a review into attainment and target levels within Nottinghamshire schools at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

2.2 The Select Committee established a cross-party Study Group consisting of Councillor Martin Suthers (Chair), Councillor Philip Owen, Councillor Yvonne Woodhead and Councillor Kevan Wakefield. The Study Group also included Mr David Richards the statutory Select Committee representative from the Diocese of Southwell. It met from 3 November 2005 to 25 April 2006.

2.3 A report was tabled at the Select Committee meeting on 18 October 2005 comparing Nottinghamshire against its 10 statistical neighbours as judged by the Government. The data showed that on average from 2001-2004, Nottinghamshire had been ranked approximately 7th in English at Key Stage 2, 6th in Maths at Key Stage 2 and 5th in science at Key Stage 2. The data further revealed that at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Nottinghamshire was ranked bottom (11th) across all disciplines.

2.4 The Select Committee wanted to investigate this decline and attempt to provide an explanation for it by considering the current attainment levels and transition arrangements operating across Nottinghamshire schools; examining "successful" Nottinghamshire schools and promoting good practice across the school fraternity; and liaising with statistical neighbours to identify good

practice elsewhere and to suggest recommendations to Cabinet regarding using this practice within Nottinghamshire.

- 2.5 The attached report contains 13 recommendations for the consideration of Cabinet.

3. Statutory and Policy Implications

- 3.1 The attached report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that Cabinet considers the work undertaken by the Select Committee's Study Group and that a response by Cabinet on the recommendations be reported back to an appropriate Select Committee in due course.

5. Legal Services Comments (PDH 110506)

- 5.1 The provision of education is an executive function for which the Cabinet is responsible. It is within the terms of reference of this scrutiny committee to scrutinise the education matters set out in this report and make recommendations to the Cabinet. The Executive Procedure rules provide that the Cabinet will consider and respond to reports and recommendations from Select Committees.

6. Director of Resources Financial Comments (KH)

- 6.1 The financial implications will be considered as part of Cabinet's response to the Select Committee

Councillor Martin Suthers
Vice-Chair of the Education and Lifelong Learning Select Committee
Chair of the EDP – Attainment and Targets Study Group
Attach.

Background Papers:
Nil