

PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANEL

16 August 2012

SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS

Report of the Strategic Director for People

STRATEGIC AIM:	Creating a Brighter Future for All
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides information on the proposed services that the Local Authority will offer to Academies on a full cost recovery basis. The brochure provided is a working draft which is due to be finalised and issued at the beginning of the Autumn Term 2012.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Scrutiny Panel consider and comment on the information provided in the Services for Schools brochure for Academies.**

3. PROVISION OF LA SERVICES FOR ACADEMIES IN RUTLAND

- 3.1 Following the Secretary of State's announcement in May 2011 which outlined the Academies Bill later adopted as law, it has been necessary for the Local Authority to develop a programme of services for which Academies would be able to purchase.

- 3.2 Currently five schools in Rutland have converted to Academy status:

- Uppingham community College
- Catmose College
- Casterton Business & Enterprise College
- Brookehill Academy
- Catmose Primary School

The LA anticipates that the remaining schools in Rutland will in time consider the options of whether to convert to academy status.

- 3.3 The Local Authority has consulted with all Directorates as to whether there are services to be put forward for inclusion in the Services for Schools draft brochure. The Services for inclusion are identified in Appendix A.

The Services available immediately are as follows:

- Copyright licences
- Governor services
- Legal services
- Outdoor Education Advisory Service
- Sustaining Sustainable Schools Project

- Schools Admission Services
- Admissions Appeal Administration
- Traveller Education Service
- Education Welfare Services
- School Inclusion Services
- Communication Support
- Audit services
- Support for newly qualified teachers
- Job evaluation

All Directorates have been consulted, however in the future there are likely to be additional services to be included. The brochure will be reviewed in March 2013.

- 3.4** All Services offered within the brochure are offered on a full cost recovery basis only. This has been estimated by the Finance Team at RCC.
- 3.5** Schools and Academies receive information from a range of organisations offering services. The Rutland brochure whilst funded on a full cost recovery basis is competitively priced and is in line with neighbouring Local Authorities and other organisations.
- 3.6** The Local Authority aim to circulate the Services for Schools brochure prior to the start of the Autumn Term 2012.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK	IMPACT	COMMENTS
Time	Medium	Some increase in officer and administration time in order to complete service level agreements and administration processes.
Viability	Low	As this is a commercial venture, success dependant on Academies buying services from the LA. Current service provision can be delivered within current staffing framework.
Finance	Low	Any services provided will be delivered on a full cost recovery basis.
Profile	Low	There is unlikely to be significant public interest in how support services are delivered to Academies.
Equality and Diversity	Medium	Monitoring of any service level agreements will be required to ensure parity in service delivery. An EIA screening has been completed.

Background Papers
Education Act 2011
Academies Bill 2010

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A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.