

Extract from the Minutes of the Executive, 3rd April 2013

152 FUTURE ROLE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY IN EDUCATION SERVICES

Report ED13032

The Council at its meeting on 21st January 2013 had agreed a new set of parameters for its work with schools which had been reflected in the new business plan agreed by the Portfolio Holder for Education following the Education PDS Committee meeting on 23rd January 2013. The new approach sought to encourage schools to be independent of the Local Authority, with the Local Authority adopting the role of community champion on behalf of parents and their children, holding schools to account and ensuring an adequate supply of high quality school places. A report outlining this future new role of the Local Authority in Education Services and setting out a covenant to be used to establish this new relationship with schools had been discussed by the Education PDS Committee on 19th March 2013 who had fully supported the proposals. A revised version of the proposed covenant had been circulated to the Executive.

The Portfolio Holder for Education introduced the report which he considered built on the proposals already agreed by Council and was the next stage in setting out a practical way forward. The Executive was being asked to endorse this new approach and that the proposals be referred to Council for formal adoption. Councillor Wells responded to various questions in respect of the current role of the Local Authority. The Executive Director for Education and Care Services highlighted that the Council still retained a number of powers particularly related to the health, safety and wellbeing of children as set out in his report. The proposed covenant would be the core of the new role of the Council to demand the best from schools for the benefit of young people.

The Executive supported the proposals and it was suggested that as there were some minor amendments necessary as well as the need to clarify any legal liabilities the proposals be submitted to the Council Meeting in July.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the new role of the Council as a champion of the community and the adoption of a Compact/Covenant to be used to establish this new relationship with schools be endorsed; and**
- 2) as these proposals reflected significant policy changes for the local authority they be submitted to Council for formal ratification at the meeting in July 2013, subject to any necessary minor amendments/changes as required.**