

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CABINET
MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2000 AT 10.00 A.M.**

Agenda Item No:

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2001/02

Report of the Director of Education

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Executive Member: Keith Emsall

1. Purpose of report

To agree the draft Education Development Plan (EDP) 2001/02 and a suggested process to enable it to be approved by County Council on 15 February 2001.

2. Summary

This report briefly explains how the EDP has been organised and asks for the Cabinet's approval to the critical strands that have been identified so far for the 2001/02 Plan. It then suggests seeking the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee's views on 24 January 2001, before Cabinet is asked on 29 January 2001 to recommend the final plan for approval by the Council on 15 February 2001

1. Background

The first EDP was prepared in 1999 and was approved by the Secretary of State for a three-year period 1999-2002. It was organised around ten priorities:

- Standards and the Curriculum
- Staffing and Training
- School Management and Organisation
- Community Education
- Behaviour and Motivation
- Budgets and Assets
- Management Information and Communications
- New Technologies
- Special Educational Needs
- Early Years

Those priorities were supported by key activities and detailed actions for the first year of the Plan.

Ofsted, in the LEA inspection report, said it was 'a very good EDP, well written, well organised'.

The same structure was retained for the second Plan, approved by Education Committee in April 2000, but set out each action in detail, to make the programmes clearer for schools. Targets for improvement were set and progress since the baseline of 1998 was recorded.

The third (2001/02) Plan (draft attached) is the last covering the 1999-2002 period. It is also the final EDP to be prepared before the Children, Schools and Families department is introduced next year. The same format has been retained and, though it includes initiatives to develop the new service, it remains an 'Education' Plan.

2. The Draft EDP 2001/02

The draft is based upon the ten priorities listed above and 28 key activities each with detailed actions. The draft highlights seven critical strands that have been identified so far during the Plan's preparation. These are:

- Continue to ensure accelerated progress for targeted schools
- Support headship and school leadership developments
- Develop and implement a strategy for gifted and talented children
- Use ICT throughout the curriculum and in school management
- Improve recruitment and retention of teaching staff
- Develop and implement community based preventative strategies
- Develop and implement relationships and the protocols between schools and the new Children, Schools and Families Service

Cabinet are asked to indicate their agreement to these critical strands.

3. EDP 2001/02 Process

Schools and other interested parties have been asked for their views and comments on the draft; and detailed work to improve the Plan is being done at this term's meetings of the management partnership groups.

During this term the 'actual' figures for the year 2000 'targets' will also become available. They will be incorporated in the Plan and it will then be possible to analyse where progress has been greater than anticipated or where it has fallen short. In the past, future targets have not been revised downwards; but changes have been made upwards if the actual achievement has surpassed future years' targets.

It is suggested that the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee on 24 January 2001 look at the draft and at the outcome of consultation and revisions to future targets. A final draft of the plan would then be brought back to the Cabinet on 29 January for agreement prior to the seeking of Council approval on 15 February 2001.

4. Financial implications

The cost of the activities in the current 2000/01 plan was estimated at £16.4m.

The cost of the development activities included in the 2001/2002 draft Plan cannot yet be finalised because of uncertainties surrounding the Standards Fund 2001/02. However costs for delivering next year's Plan are being prepared and will be included in the final version.

Background information referred to by the author whilst compiling this report

Achievement for All Hertfordshire's Education Development Plan 2001/02 - Draft for Consultation September 2000.

If you wish to know more about the issues covered in this report please contact Jim Dalton, telephone no. 01992 555862.