

## **Review of Demographics for York Primary Schools – Cover Report**

### **Summary**

1. This report presents the draft final report arising from the Demographics Review (shown at Appendix 1), and asks Members to agree any revisions required to it, and identify any appropriate recommendations arising from the review in relation to the second objective i.e. ‘To identify whether the current School Travel Policies are fair and appropriate given the changing demographics’.

### **Background**

2. At a scrutiny work planning event held in July 2011, Members of this committee discussed a range of possible topics for scrutiny review this municipal year. The issue of the changing demographics for York’s primary schools was raised as a matter of concern and as a result it was agreed to proceed with this review.
3. The Committee held a number of information gathering sessions, and as a result agreed to focus their review on the examination of:
  - The oversubscription criteria in use in York’s Community and Voluntary Controlled schools - Is made up of the right priorities, and in the right order?
  - The current School Travel Policies – Are they fair and appropriate given the changing demographics?

### **Consultation**

4. Senior officers working within School Organisation & Support assisted Members with their work on the review. The committee also met with the Head teachers from Hempland Primary School and Scarcroft Primary School.

## **Analysis**

5. A full analysis of the information gathered in support of the review is contained within the draft final report at Appendix 1.
6. Members have yet to agree any recommendations they wish to make in relation to the second objective - 'To identify whether the current School Travel Policies are fair and appropriate given the changing demographics'. To assist them in this, at the last meeting Members requested some additional information as follows:
  - Feedback from East Riding of Yorkshire Council on their previous withdrawal of free denominational transport – see Annex F
  - A breakdown of the potential savings that could be made if a decision were taken to carry out a phased withdrawal of free denominational transport – see Annex G
7. Having considered all of the new information provided at this meeting and in the attached draft final report, Members are asked to agree their conclusions in relation to the second objective, so that they may be inserted in the draft final report at paragraph 45, and identify any appropriate recommendations so that these may also be added to the draft final report at paragraph 46.

## **Implications & Risk Management**

8. When identifying possible recommendations relating to Objective (ii) Members will need to consider the associated implications and risks. Officers present at the meeting may be able to provide support and assistance with this. Alternatively it may be necessary to seek additional information outside of the meeting. All implications and associated risks will need to be added to the draft final report before the report can be finalised.

## **Options**

9. Having considered the draft final report and all new information provided, Members may choose to:
  - i. Identify their conclusions in relation to the second objective of the review
  - ii. Agree their recommendations taking into account any associated implications and risks
  - iii. Agree any amendments required to the draft final report

10. The draft final report will then be updated to reflect this information. Subject to this work being completed, Members may agree to either:

- a) Sign off the finalised report at the next meeting of the Committee, or;
- b) Delegate the signing off of the finalised report to the Chair

### **Council Plan**

11. This review supports the Council Plan in that the provision of appropriate and improved local infrastructure (including schools) will help to build strong communities.

### **Recommendations**

12. Members are recommended to agree:

- i) Any amendments/additions required to the draft final report and;
- ii) Their conclusions in relation to the second objective and their associated recommendations.

Reason: In order to conclude the review in line with scrutiny procedure and protocols

### **Contact Details**

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**Report Approved**  **Date** 3 January 2012

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** N/A

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

**All**



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** N/A

**Appendices:**

**Appendix 1 – Draft Final Report for Demographics Review**