



SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION FORM

PROPOSED TOPIC: 14-19 Specialised Diplomas				
COUNCILLOR(S) REGISTERING THE TOPIC: Cllr Keith Aspden				
<p>SECTION 1: ABOUT THE TOPIC</p> <p>Please complete this section as thoroughly as you can. The information provided will help Scrutiny Officers and Scrutiny Members to assess the following key elements to the success of any scrutiny review:</p> <p>How a review should best be undertaken given the subject Who needs to be involved What should be looked at By when it should be achieved; and Why we are doing it ?</p>				
<p>Please describe how the proposed topic fits with 3 of the eligibility criteria attached.</p> <p><i>As a general rule, topics will only proceed to review if they meet 3 of the criteria below. However, where it is adequately demonstrated that a topic is of significant public interest and fits with the first criteria but does not meet 3, Scrutiny Management Committee may still decide to allocate the topic for review. Please indicate which 3 criteria the review would meet and the relevant scrutiny roles:</i></p>				
	✓	Policy Development & Review	Service Improvement & Delivery	Accountability of Executive Decisions
Public Interest (ie. in terms of both proposals being in the public interest and resident perceptions)	✓	✓		
Under Performance / Service Dissatisfaction				
In keeping with corporate priorities	✓	✓	✓	
Level of Risk				
Service Efficiency	✓	✓	✓	
National/local/regional significance e.g. A central government priority area, concerns joint working arrangements at a local 'York' or wider regional context	✓	✓		

Public Interest – At the age of 14, the decision to move from the traditional qualification route to pursue a specialised diploma is one of the most important decisions that a child and its parents will make. Therefore, it is highly important that a robust 14-19 strategy is developed to ensure the successful introduction and management of the 14-19 curriculum reforms across the city. At this stage there is no evidence that a strategy exists.

In keeping with the Corporate Strategy – A review of this topic would support the following priorities for improvement:

‘Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city’

‘Increase people’s skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects’

National/Local/Regional Significance – The topic is of local significance in that work on implementing the curriculum reforms in York has commenced and will effect the choices being made by pupils. Parents need to be fully informed of the options available to enable their children to receive the right type of education/training best suited to their personal needs, thus ensuring their future prospects.

Set out briefly the purpose of any scrutiny review of your proposed topic. What do you think it should achieve?

A scrutiny investigation would look at how City of York Council with partners is responding to the new Diplomas for 14-19 year olds.

Diplomas have been created to “provide a real alternative to more traditional education and qualifications” but will this be the case in York?

The scrutiny investigation could cover the planning for diplomas, previous Executive decisions, delivery of diplomas including looking at functional skills and long-term employability and the future for diplomas in York.

Please explain briefly what you think any scrutiny review of your proposed topic should cover.

- planning for diplomas
- previous Executive decisions
- delivery of diplomas
- functional skills
- long-term employability
- the future for diplomas in York.

Investigate what the strategy is for delivering the 14-19 curriculum reforms (previous 14-19 strategy covered 2003-05)

Is the provision local to the areas where those children who are likely to take up the option live? If not, is transportation an issue ?

Are the diplomas on offer in York the right ones ?

Please indicate which other Councils, partners or external services could, in your opinion, participate in the review, saying why.

The scrutiny review would need to involve a range of external partners with City of York Council.

The partners will involve council officers within Learning, Culture and Children's Services, local schools and York College. The scrutiny board could also look further, with parents, young people and employers being involved.

Explain briefly how, in your opinion, such a review might be most efficiently undertaken?

This is not about who might be involved (addressed above) but how the review might be conducted e.g. sending a questionnaire to each household to gather information on current recycling practices and gathering information on how recycling is carried out in Cities similar to York

The scrutiny board would wish to consider a range of methods for starting this investigation.

- Review of previous planning and Executive decisions
- A presentation on 14-19 diplomas now from LCCS
- Visits to key schools and York College
- A questionnaire or meeting with young people, parents and employers

Estimate the timescale for completion.

Please circle below the nearest timescale group, in your estimation, based on the information you have given in this form.

(a) 6-9 months

PLEASE ENCLOSE ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS OR OTHER INFORMATION YOU FEEL MIGHT BE USEFUL BACKGROUND TO THE SUBMISSION OF THIS TOPIC FOR CONSIDERATION.

None

Submitted on: 15 July 2008