

<b>CABINET</b>	Paper No.  <b>14</b>
Meeting date: 22 May 2007	
From: Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Corporate Director – Children's Services	

**SCHOOL ORGANISATION : A STRATEGIC APPROACH – THE  
POSSIBILITY OF STRATEGICALLY RESOURCED PROVISION  
AT CUMWHINTON SCHOOL**

**SECTION A:  
RECOMMENDATION OF CABINET MEMBER**

**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *This paper concerns the possibility of Cumwhinton School becoming a Strategically Resourced School for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).*
- 1.2 *It reports on the outcome of a public consultation exercise and asks Members to take a decision about whether to formally propose creating an ASD facility at the school.*

**2.0 POLICY POSITION, BUDGETARY AND EQUALITY  
IMPLICATIONS AND LINKS TO CORPORATE STRATEGY**

**Policy Position**

- 2.1 *The potential move to make the special educational needs provision, which this report focuses on, represents school organisation change.*
- 2.2 *The policy position on school organisation matters is set out in the 7 September 2005 Cabinet paper 'School Organisation – A Strategic Approach'.*
- 2.3 *The document 'Enhancing Lives Through Learning – A Vision for Schools in Cumbria', which was approved by Cabinet on 28 February*

*2006, underpins and guides the Authority's school organisation processes.*

- 2.4** *The strategic direction relating to the development of provision for pupils with special educational needs is set out in Inclusive Cumbria (2003).*

**Budgetary Implications**

- 2.5** *There are no significant implications for the levels of revenue budgets. School organisation change can, however, free-up existing resources to be put to alternative use in or for other schools.*
- 2.6** *Capital expenditure would be required to achieve the potential change covered in this paper. Provision for this is made in the Authority's Capital Plan.*

**Links to the Council Plan**

- 2.7** *The basic thrust of the strategic approach to school organisation is to safeguard and improve the education and other services to children and their families provided through schools in the County.*
- 2.8** *This is supportive of the Plan's themes, 'Improving Council Services' and 'Children and Young People'.*

**3.0** **RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1** *Cabinet is asked to agree that all necessary action be taken to enable Cumwhinton School to become a Strategically Resourced School for pupils with ASD with effect from the beginning of the 2008/09 academic year.*

**Philip Chappelhow**  
**Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

## **SECTION B:** **ADVICE OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN’S SERVICES**

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

#### General

- 4.1 The Carlisle Local Partnership Group and the School Organisation Forum recommended that consultation should occur on Cumwhinton School becoming a Strategically Resourced School for pupils with ASD. The Cabinet accepted those recommendations at its meeting on 30 January.
- 4.2 A consultation paper was prepared and circulated to involved and interested parties on 18 April 2007. This document is attached as Appendix A.

#### Feedback from Consultation

- 4.3 The response to the consultation document is contained in appendices as follows:
- Appendix B – an analysis of the responses received
  - Appendix C – a copy of the written response received from the governing body of Cumwhinton School.
- 4.4 As can be seen from Appendix B, there was a mixed response from consultees. However, a majority of those responding to the consultation process were in support of Cumwhinton School becoming a Strategically Resourced School. Very importantly, this includes the governing body of the school.

#### Additional Information

- 4.5 Consultation is about to begin on the possibility of Caldew School in Dalston also becoming a Strategically Resourced School for ASD pupils. There is a link between the two potential developments as most of the Cumwhinton catchment area is in the catchment area of Caldew School.

### **5.0 OPTIONS**

- 5.1 Members could decide to propose that Cumwhinton School becomes a Strategically Resourced School or to leave things as they are.

### **6.0 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 As the recommendation is supported by the outcome of the consultation process, Members will no doubt want to seriously consider giving it their approval.

**Jim Mitchell**  
**Manager/Coordinator, School Organisation Project**  
*May 2007*

## **APPENDICES**

***Appendix A – ‘Planning Strategically Resourced Provision for Cumwhinton School – A consultation document’***

***Appendix B – Analysis of individuals’ responses to the consultation***

***Appendix C – Response from the governing body of Cumwhinton School***

## **IMPLICATIONS**

Staffing: If Cumwhinton School becomes a Strategically Resourced School, enhanced staffing will be required.

Financial:  
Revenue - There are no implications for the overall levels of revenue budgets.

Capital - Capital investment would be required to provide new facilities if the recommendation is approved. Provision is already made for this in the Authority’s Capital Plan.

Electoral Division(s): All Carlisle.

Executive Decision

Key Decision

If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?  
If so, give details below.

## **PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

***Cabinet 7 September 2005***

***Cabinet 30 January 2007***

## **CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

***Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.***

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

*No background papers.*

**RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER**

*Philip Chappelhow, Cabinet Member for Children's Services*

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