

<b>NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Services Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>13 September 2012</b>
<b>TITLE OF ITEM</b>	<b>Education Strategy</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Gareth James</b>

- 1 At its meeting on 31 July 2012, members of this Scrutiny Committee requested guidance by the Monitoring Officer regarding the propriety of establishing a Working Group to assist the Cabinet Member to implement the work programme for the reorganisation of the County's schools.
  
- 2 The following guidance was given, members have three options:
  - a) The Cabinet Member establishes a working group from amongst the backbench members to assist her with the work of creating a prioritisation plan. The Cabinet Member would choose the members of the working group and direct its work – it would be a consultative working group.
  
  - b) The Cabinet Member invites the Scrutiny Committee to nominate members to a working group to assist her in creating a prioritisation plan. The Cabinet Member would set the brief of the working group – commissioning work from them, to all intents and purposes. *(It should be noted that members of the working group would not be able to scrutinise the work at a later date. Should the matter go back before the full committee, it would be in the form of a report to present the work of the working group before it is finally transferred to the Cabinet Member.)*
  
  - c) The Scrutiny Committee establishes a working group to scrutinise the work of developing the prioritisation plan. The Cabinet Member would lead and deliver the work – the working group's input would be to scrutinise and challenge when key milestones are reached. *(In order to be quite clear regarding the ownership and leadership, the relevant department (Education in this case) would support the Cabinet Member and the working group in a) and b); however, the scrutiny team would support the working group in c)).*
  
- 3 The draft Prioritisation Plan has already been started and it will be discussed at the informal Cabinet meeting on 11 September. Therefore, options a) and b) are no longer relevant.
  
- 4 Recommendation  
That the Scrutiny Committee Monitors Progress and requests a report when necessary.