

<b>NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Services Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>22 September 2015</b>
<b>TITLE OF ITEM</b>	<b>EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION – DRAFT BRIEF</b>

## **BACKGROUND**

The Education Authority has wide ranging responsibilities to provide support services for the chief providers of education services in the county for our children, our primary, secondary and special schools. This is in areas such as advisory services for improvement and advice, special educational needs and inclusion together with other support services.

The Education Service has a budget of £17.872m that is not delegated to schools to meet these responsibilities and those budgets are under severe pressure in terms of the demand for the service and also the pressure to reduce budgets because of the financial challenge facing the Council. The Investigation will also consider other education support services within the £71.31m delegated to schools.

The Education Quality Scrutiny Investigation identified the need to define clearly the Authority's role in terms of the standard of Education and, specifically, to establish a very clear understanding of the link between the Education Authority and schools in the area of quality.

## **PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The Investigation will, in the first place, seek to establish an understanding of:-

- What are the expectations (statutory and otherwise) on the Education Authority in the various Support Services?
- Who provides these services and how does the Council ensure high quality standards for our children and schools?
- What needs does the Education Authority need to address in these areas and to what extent do the Authority's current arrangements fulfil these?
- The link between the services that the Authority provides and the needs of the County's pupils
- What challenges is the Authority facing in terms of providing those services now and in the future?

- What are the Authority's current arrangements in these areas and what is the best practice from other areas for providing those services?

The Investigation will then seek answers to the following questions:-

- What sort of changes in the services, if at all, need to be undertaken so that they can fulfil their purpose and be sustainable for the future
- What other possible models are available for the provision of these services?

## **EFFECT**

The Scrutiny Investigation will prepare clear recommendations based on evidence for submission to the Cabinet Member to offer improvements to this service for the future.