

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>SEN Inclusion Policy and Development Plan</b>	<b>Item 14</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	Executive	
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	EX0679	

<b>Corporate Plan Priority:</b>	<b>To achieve better and fairer outcomes for children and young people by delivering high quality integrated services through partnership.</b>
The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Corporate Plan priority by: Delivering high quality integrated services through Partnership.	
The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Corporate Plan priority by:	
1. <i>Improving opportunities for pupils with SEN and increasing inclusion.</i>	
2. <i>Improving outcomes for children with SEN.</i>	

**Purpose of Report:**

**To request the Executive to consider the recommendations of the Children & Young People Select Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2004**

**Recommended Action:**

1. That the Executive be advised that the Children & Young People Select Committee accepts the decision made by the Executive on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2004.
2. That the Executive be advised that the Children & Young People Select Committee approve the principle of co-location and inclusion with the preference that Special Schools should be relocated in their entirety.
3. That the Executive be advised that the Children & Young People Select Committee would like a progress report on co-location to come back to the Select Committee in 6 months time.

**Reason for decision to be taken:**

The original decision of the Executive was called in due to concerns about the policy on co-location of special schools, in particular;

1. We understand that some educationalists believe that the suggested co-location / inclusion policy is not necessarily good practice and not all Councils are pursuing this policy.
2. We are concerned about the feasibility of organising schools on the co-located principle – is it sensible for a Head Teacher to manage groups of perhaps four or five staff each scattered across three or four different school sites?
3. We are concerned about whether the consultation exercise fully explored the views of all affected parents on the principles of co-location.

**List of other options considered:**

Not applicable.

**Key background documentation:**

- Children & Young People Select Committee Report of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2004

- Executive Decision Notice
- Executive Report of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2004
- Call-In Request

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<b>Contact Officer Details</b>	
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## **Implications**

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<b>Policy:</b>	As set out in the report to Executive on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2004
<b>Financial:</b>	As set out in the report to Executive on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2004
<b>Personnel:</b>	As set out in the report to Executive on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2004
<b>Legal:</b>	As set out in the report to Executive on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2004
<b>Property:</b>	As set out in the report to Executive on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2004
<b>Risk Management:</b>	As set out in the report to Executive on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2004

## Supporting Information

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### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Executive, at its meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2004, considered and approved the recommendation for the publication of the SEN Inclusion Policy and Development Plan 2004-2009.
- 2.2 Following formal publication of the decision, the Council received notice, in accordance with Paragraph 6.5.4 of the Councils constitution calling-in the decision. The reasons given for the call-in were as follows:

The original decision of the Executive was called in due to concerns about the policy on co-location of special schools, in particular;

1. We understand that some educationalists believe that the suggested co-location / inclusion policy is not necessarily good practice and not all Councils are pursuing this policy.
2. We are concerned about the feasibility of organising schools on the co-located principle – is it sensible for a Head Teacher to manage groups of perhaps four or five staff each scattered across three or four different school sites?
3. We are concerned about whether the consultation exercise fully explored the views of all affected parents on the principles of co-location.

- 2.3 At its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2004, the Children & Young People Select Committee examined the issue in depth and invited a number of witnesses to present evidence to the Select Committee. After consideration of this evidence, the Select Committee resolved:

**i) That the Executive be advised that the Children & Young People Select Committee accepts the decision made by the Executive on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2004**

**(ii) That the Executive be advised that the Children & Young People Select Committee approve the principle of co-location and inclusion with the preference that Special Schools should be relocated in their entirety.**

**(iii) That the Executive be advised that the Children & Young People Select Committee would like a progress report on co-location to come back to the Select Committee in 6 months time.**

### Appendices

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None

### Consultation Responses

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<b>Local Stakeholders:</b>	As set out in the report to Executive on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2004
<b>Officers Consulted:</b>	As set out in the report to Executive on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2004
<b>Trade Union:</b>	As set out in the report to Executive on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2004