

Title of Report:	The performance of schools in West Berkshire	Item 6
Report to be considered by:	Stronger Communities Select Committee	
Date of Meeting:	06 July 2009	

Purpose of Report: To outline to the Stronger Communities Select Committee the proposed Terms of Reference for a review into the performance of schools.

Recommended Action: Amend, if necessary, and approve the Terms of Reference for the review.

Portfolio Member Details	
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Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 During the meeting of 24 March 2009, Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission considered a request from Councillor Alan Macro for a review into schools' performance within the district. The request was prompted by a concern that a number of schools were in 'special measures' or the 'National Challenge' scheme.
- 1.2 The Commission agreed to add this item to the work programme and at its meeting of 16 June 2009 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission agreed that the matter should be examined by the Stronger Communities Select Committee.
- 1.3 This report proposes Terms of Reference and a review methodology for examination of the topic.

2. Proposed Terms of Reference

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Stronger Communities Select Committee examines the matter in its meeting of 5 October 2009.
- 2.2 The Select Committee will conduct a review into the performance of schools in West Berkshire and will consider, in particular:
 - The background and context
 - Where and why schools are not reaching the required standard
 - Consider what is being done and can be done further to improve schools' performance
 - Report to the Executive with recommendations for changes in the current arrangements

3. Operation and delivery

- 3.1 The subject will form the main agenda item at the Stronger Communities Select Committee's meeting of 5 October. A number of witnesses will be called to give evidence, the detailed scope and methodology for which is detailed at Appendix A.

Appendices

Appendix A – Scoping document

Consultees

Local Stakeholders:

Officers Consulted: Andy Tubbs, Chief Adviser for Schools Improvement

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Scoping Document

APPENDIX A

Review Topic: Assessing the performance of schools in the district

Timescale
Start: 5 Oct 09
Finish: 5 Oct 09

Review Rationale:

To understand the reasons why some schools are in 'special measures' or in the 'National Challenge' and identify where possible further measures that could be taken to improve their performance.

Terms of Reference:

Conduct a review into the performance of schools in West Berkshire and will consider, in particular:

- The background and context
- Where and why schools are not reaching the required standard
- Consider what is being done and can be done further to improve schools' performance
- Report to the Executive with recommendations for changes in the current arrangements

Review Membership:

All members of the Stronger Select Committee

Chairman: Councillor Irene Neill

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Alan Macro

Scrutiny Officer: TBD

Information Required:

- background information
 - the inspection and performance monitoring regime
 - the standards required
 - local performance
- which schools are failing
 - individual causal factors
 - systemic causal factors
- what corrective action has been taken to date
- the impact and progress of the corrective action
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Witnesses:

- Councillor Barbara Alexander, Children and Young People Portfolio holder, West Berkshire Council – corporate lead for Education issues
- Andy Tubbs, Chief Adviser for Schools Improvement, West Berkshire Council – provide background information and context
- Chris Bryan, National Challenge Adviser
- School Improvement Advisers (Tim Kuhles, Maxine Slade)
- School Improvement Partner (Secondary) Alan Bartlett
- West Berkshire Headteachers - to be confirmed

Title of Report:	Stronger Communities Select Committee Work Programme	Item 7
Report to be considered by:	Stronger Communities Select Committee	
Date of Meeting:	06 July 2009	

Purpose of Report: To consider and prioritise the Work Programme of the Select Committee for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

Recommended Action: To consider the current items and agree any future areas for scrutiny.

Stronger Communities Select Committee Chairman	
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Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on 16 June 2009 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission agreed the Work Programme of the Commission and that of the Scrutiny Select Committees for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.
- 1.2 Members are requested to consider the latest Resource Management Select Committee Work Programme at Appendix A, prioritise the items listed and agree any future areas for scrutiny.

Appendices

Appendix A – Stronger Communities Select Committee Work Programme

Consultees

- Local Stakeholders:** Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
- Officers Consulted:** Corporate Director (Children and Young People), Policy and Scrutiny Manager
- Trade Union:** N/A

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APPENDIX A

Stronger Communities Select Committee Work Programme (2009/10)

	NEW Review Area	Methodology	Target Dates	Lead Officer(s)	Reviewing Body
OSMC/S C/09/1	School standards <i>Purpose: To assess the performance of schools in the district to understand why some are in 'special measures' or in the 'National Challenge' and identify where possible further measures that could be taken to improve their performance.</i>	Information supplied by, and questioning of, Lead Officers.	Start: 6 July 09 Finish: 5 Oct 09	Chief Adviser for Schools Improvement	Stronger Communities Select Committee
OSMC/S C/09/2	Implementation of the recommendations arising from the Laming Report, following the 'Baby P' enquiry <i>Purpose: To ensure that the authority is complying with the recommendations of the Laming Report.</i>	Information supplied by, and questioning of, Lead Officer.	Start: 5 Oct 09 Finish:	Head of Children's Services	Stronger Communities Select Committee
OSMC/S C/09/3	Small schools. <i>Purpose: To review funding pupil numbers and educational viability.</i>	Information supplied by, and questioning of, Lead Officer.	Start: 5 Oct 09 Finish:	Head of Education Services	Stronger Communities Select Committee
OSMC/S C/09/4	Partnership activity in response to the recession <i>Purpose: Assessment of the impact of the measures taken by the West Berkshire Partnership to mitigate the local effects of the recession.</i>	Information supplied by, and questioning of, Lead Officer.	Start: 5 Oct 09 Finish:	Economic Development Officer	Stronger Communities Select Committee
OSMC/S C/09/5	Policy for Private Housing Sector Renewal <i>Purpose: To review initiatives relating to private sector housing renewal policy.</i>	Information supplied by, and questioning of, Lead Officer.	Start: tbc Finish:	Head of Housing and Performance	Stronger Communities Select Committee
OSMC/S C/09/6	Review of special schools. <i>Purpose: To review current role and breadth of needs met by special schools.</i>	Information supplied by, and questioning of, Lead Officer.	Start: tbc Finish:	Head of Education Services	Stronger Communities Select Committee

	NEW Review Area	Methodology	Target Dates	Lead Officer(s)	Reviewing Body
OSMC/S C/09/7	School meals <i>Purpose: To be determined.</i>	Information supplied by, and questioning of, Lead Officer.	Start: tbc Finish:	Head of Education Services	Stronger Communities Select Committee
OSMC/S C/09/8	Playbuilder programme <i>Purpose: Assessment of arrangements for improving play provision</i>	Information supplied by, and questioning of, Lead Officer.	Start: tbc Finish:	Head of Children's Commissioning and Quality	Stronger Communities Select Committee
OSMC/S C/09/9	Implementation of the Social Inclusion Strategy <i>Purpose: Assessment of the effectiveness of the strategy in addressing the needs of residents most excluded within the district.</i>	Information supplied by, and questioning of, Lead Officer.	Start: tbc Finish:	Corporate Director (Community Services)	Stronger Communities Select Committee
OSMC/S C/09/10	Monitor changes introduced to the Youth Service <i>Purpose: To monitor annually the progress of the changes being introduced to the Youth Service and the impact that they make on an annual basis until 1 year after all changes have been fully introduced.</i>	Information supplied by, and questioning of, Lead Officer.	Start: tbc Finish:	Youth Service Manager	Stronger Communities Select Committee
OSMC/S C/09/11	Whether young people moving into adulthood are sufficiently equipped to be independent, particularly in the way they access recreational activities <i>Purpose: To give consideration to undertaking a review that examines whether those moving from childhood are equipped to be sufficiently independent to operate as young adults, particularly in the way they access recreational activities.</i>	Information supplied by, and questioning of, Lead Officer.	Start: tbc Finish:	Head of Cultural Services	Stronger Communities Select Committee
OSMC/S C/09/12	Aiming High for Disabled Children <i>Purpose: Review of progress in implementing the strategy.</i>	Information supplied by, and questioning of, Lead Officer.	Start: 26 April 2010 Finish:	Head of Children's Services	Stronger Communities Select Committee