



## CHILDREN & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 August 2012 (Special)

**Subject Heading:**

Future Shape of Education Services

**CMT Lead:**

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**Policy context:**

This decision has implications for all schools, located across all wards in the Borough.

In accordance with Paragraph 17 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Rules, a requisition signed by two Members representing more than one Group (Councillors Keith Darvill and Gillian Ford) has called in the decision of the Cabinet Member dated 11 July 2012. The text of the requisition appears at the end of this report:

### **CABINET DECISION**

At its meeting on 11 July 2012 Cabinet considered a report on the future shape of education services in the borough and made the following decisions:

1. To retain in house a smaller number of teams with responsibility for delivering the authority's **statutory duties** to vulnerable children and families, and those relating to preventing school failure. (Implementation April 2013).
2. (a) To explore two options for the **non statutory functions of Hsis** during July:
  - the establishment of a non statutory Havering School Improvement Service (Hsis) Trust with local schools
  - a "soft market testing" exercise to establish the level of external interest in running the service.
2. (b) That a final decision about the "destination" of this service is made following this work. (Implementation April 2013).
3. To note that work continues to ensure that the non statutory traded services of the Europa Centre, Catering Service, Adult College and the Music School meet their MTFs savings targets, whilst options continue to be explored for the future delivery of these services.

**Reasons for decisions:**

To ensure that the Council is able to meet its statutory obligations to support children, families and schools, but within a reduced funding envelope, thereby ensuring the provision of high quality schooling to local residents and protecting the most vulnerable children and families

**Other options considered and rejected:**

To no longer provide statutory services to schools and operate a “free market”, with the associated risks for the future lives of children and families in Havering and the long term reputation of Havering as a place in which businesses wish to locate and families wish to live.

**REASONS FOR REQUISITION**

To examine the options and recommendations contained in the Report to Cabinet.

Specifically, the requisition seeks to clarify the following issues:

- There is no option identified to work with the existing model. Our services have a high buy in rate so what consideration has been given to expanding and growing these services even further into other boroughs?
- Recommendation 2 (b) page 69, who will be making the final decision?
- All of the options need to be discussed by the Children & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Committee considers the requisition of the decision of Cabinet and determine whether to uphold it.**