

Scrutiny Review - Planning & Scoping Document

<p>What is the Purpose of the Review?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Specify exactly which Outcome(s) the review is examining?</i> • <i>Also being clear what the review is <u>not</u> looking at</i> • <i>What is the Scrutiny Review seeking to achieve?</i> • <i>Where possible refer to VFM issues of service cost, service performance and/or customer satisfaction.</i> 	<p>Special Educational Needs Budget – Review</p> <p>The High Needs Block (HNB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant supports children with SEN or other needs to help them be Safe, Healthy, Independent and Prosperous through the power of learning.</p> <p>This work is not looking at the Written Statement of Action arising from Dorset’s recent OfSTED SEN inspection nor the Joint Strategy which is in development, nor the future work of South West Audit in this area.</p> <p>At the last meeting, a member raised the apparent reductions in the HNB, the possible impact on children and requested greater transparency of decision-making. This review seeks to give more information and address the issues arising from this budget.</p>
<p>What are the Criteria for Selection?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why has this particular topic been considered to be a priority issue for scrutiny?</i> • <i>Which of the principle criteria promoted by the Centre for Public Scrutiny does it satisfy?</i> 	<p>Members of the Committee recognised the importance of this matter and asked for it to be treated as a matter of priority.</p> <p>This scrutiny can provide “critical friend” challenge, voice some public concerns and may lead to process improvement.</p>
<p>What are the Indicators of Success?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What factors / outcomes will demonstrate that this Scrutiny Review has been a success?</i> 	<p>Increased knowledge about the High Need Block, how it is deployed, the issues arising from increased demand and the statutory processes of the Dorset Schools’ Forum through which it is governed.</p>
<p>What Methodology / Approach is to be followed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What types of enquiry will be used to gather evidence.</i> <p><i>Following a structured and proportionate review process, which is likely to involve the active consideration of evidence, direct representation(s), a review of financial, performance and risk data</i></p>	<p>The approach recommended to the Committee is an enquiry morning. This would cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data and demand trends • Detail of the HNB and its £5.8m overspend in 2016/17 • Underlying issues and causes • Control actions undertaken

<p><i>to arrive at an objective opinion against some Key Lines of Enquiry;</i></p>	
<p>What specific resources & budget requirements are there? <i>What support is required for the review exercise?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>specialist staff</i> • <i>any external support</i> • <i>site visits</i> • <i>consultation</i> • <i>research</i> 	<p>The involvement of Finance staff will be required for this work.</p> <p>The Committee may wish to invite heads of different types of schools to contribute their perceptions and the Chair of Schools Forum</p>
<p>Are any Corporate Risks associated with this Review? <i>Identify any weaknesses and barriers to success</i></p>	<p>This restricted grant budget supports the learning of increasing numbers of vulnerable pupils. There is a significant demand-led risk linked to the High Needs Block, as although it is within the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant, any overspend is held within the Council's accounts until it can be repaid from the DSG in future years.</p>
<p>Who will receive the review conclusions and any resultant recommendations?</p>	<p>Officers will have due regard to the review's conclusions and these will be reported back to Schools' Forum.</p>
<p>What is the Review Timescale?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify key meeting dates and any deadlines for reports or decisions.</i> 	<p>As it is the last half of the Summer Term, and given current capacity, it is suggested that the outputs be made available for the Committee in November.</p>
<p>Who will lead the Review Exercise?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify a nominated:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Elected Member</i> - <i>Lead Officer</i> 	<p>Lead Officer – Jay Mercer supported by Lee House and Gerri Kemp</p> <p>Elected member to be agreed by the new committee.</p>
<p>Media Interest / Publicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Communications Plan</i> • <i>Do we need to publicise the review to encourage community involvement?</i> • <i>What sort of media coverage do we want? (E.g. Fliers,</i> 	<p>As this topic has already had media exposure, there is likely to be significant public and partner interest. It will be important to communicate the Council's role as the steward of these funds and the pressures caused by demand on a budget set by central government.</p> <p>Method : press release</p>

<i>leaflets, radio broadcast, press release, etc.)</i>	
Completed by: Date:	Jay Mercer
Approved by Scrutiny Committee Date:	