

Report to: **Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **1 June 2012**

By: **Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Community Services**

Title of report: **Joint Member Reference Group - Local authority powers, responsibilities and roles in relation to schools**

Purpose of report: **To outline the terms of reference and agree membership for the Joint Member Reference Group**

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee is recommended to agree Members to sit on the Joint Reference Group due to meet on Monday 16 July, 9.30am-12noon.

1. Financial Implications

1.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

2. Background

2.1 This Committee received an update on the 28 February 2012 on the progress of a project to determine the County Council's duties and responsibilities in relation to schools. That report promised a further update in due course.

2.2 The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee also has an interest in this project and to avoid duplication, the two committees are requested to appoint a joint reference group to consider the latest update.

3. Remit of the reference group

3.1 The purpose of the Joint Member Reference Group for Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is to take an overview of:

(1) Powers, responsibilities and roles of the local authority in relation to schools especially where the consequences of failure may impact upon the local authority.

(2) How to achieve effective risk management by schools in matters such as:

- Financial management
- Staff appointments and personnel
- Property management.

(3) How the local authority can influence school governors to ensure appropriate decision making by governors with particular reference to the selection, training and role of local authority governors.

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Background Documents None