

To consider motion:-

This Council notes the launch of the Government's Education White Paper, "Higher Standards, Better For All", on October 25th,

This Council believes:-

- The over-riding objective of schooling must be to help every child achieve the best and most appropriate education and preparation for life.
- Local schools should be funded locally, with decisions by elected bodies accountable to local people.

This Council is concerned that implementing the White Paper will lead to:-

- An admissions "free for all" where schools which are their own admissions authority will choose the pupils they want and parents risk not getting the school places they want for their children.
- Barriers to delivering the "Every Child Matters" agenda which sees schools as a key part of integrated children's services.

This Council calls for:-

- Local Authorities to continue to lead and co-ordinate local admissions to ensure fair access for all – including hard to place children – as a fair admissions policy cannot be delivered on a school by school basis.

- All members of this authority to lobby local MPs to campaign for education services to remain accountable to local people through local democracy, and to vote for this principle when the measures contained in the White Paper are debated in Parliament.

Councillor T Sutton