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**14-19 STRATEGY**

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Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Chris McEwan, Children and Young People Portfolio  
Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of Children's Services

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To seek Members' endorsement for the Darlington 14 to 19 Strategy recently approved by the Children's Trust. The 14 to 19 Strategy will be a key delivery tool for the Sustainable Community Strategy, One Darlington, Perfectly Placed, and in particular, will contribute significantly to the themes Aspiring Darlington and Prosperous Darlington. The strategy has been developed by partners including schools, colleges, employers, the Learning and Skills Council, work based learning providers, young people, and staff from Economic Regeneration

**Information and Analysis**

2. The Children's Trust at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008 and the 14 to 19 Trust at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008 considered and approved the draft Darlington 14 to 19 Strategy. The final strategy is now presented for Members' approval and is attached at **Appendix A**.
3. The strategy is intended to provide a clear well focused blueprint for the development of educational provision and services for all 14 to 19 year olds in the Darlington area over the next five years.
4. The strategy places Darlington within its national and regional contexts and articulates a clear vision for 14 to 19 educational development over the period to 2013. It identifies priorities and attempts to give clarity re the nature of local structures and partnerships whose effectiveness will be essential if the strategy is to be delivered and the vision realised. It also outlines strategic priorities for Darlington's development of the 14 to 19 agenda.
5. It is intended that by 2013 Darlington will be recognised for the excellence of its 14 to 19 provision in schools, colleges and work related environments, and its capacity to work collaboratively.
6. There are three appendices attached to the strategy which include an implementation plan, a critical path for diploma development and a development plan for the formation of protocols relevant to the 14 to 19 agenda.

**Outcome of Consultation**

7. The strategy has been consulted on with all relevant stakeholders in Darlington and at a regional level including Darlington Secondary Headteachers, Further Education providers, members of the Children's Trust and the 14 to 19 Trust who all welcomed its publication.

## **Legal Implications**

8. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

## **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

9. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect

## **Council Policy Framework**

10. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

## **Decision Deadline**

11. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

## **Key Decision**

12. This is a key decision as the strategy affects young people in all Wards.

## **Recommendation**

13. It is recommended that Members approve the Darlington 14 to 19 Strategy.

## **Reasons**

14. The recommendation is supported by the following reasons:
  - (a) To produce a delivery plan for the new diplomas; and
  - (b) To be prepared for the raising of the participation age from 2013.

**Murray Rose**  
**Director of Children's Services**

## **Background Papers**

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Andrew Dunn      Extension 2824