



## Report of the Director of Children's Services

### Report to Member Management Committee

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010

### Subject: COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON TEMPLE NEWSAM LEARNING PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL TRUST

#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Temple Newsam and surrounding wards

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

### Executive Summary

1. The report covers proposals for a council representative to join the Temple Newsam Learning Partnership which has recently been established. It recommends that the Committee agrees an Elected Member representative to become a trustee.

### Background

2. Across Leeds there are a number of schools currently in or considering forming a Schools Trust. Previously some of the Trusts have included Council membership through appointment of Elected Members in their role as school governors. This is not applicable to all schools so following the Leeds City Council Executive Board's support of developing new governance arrangements (January 2009) there is now an expectation on trusts to include the Council as a Trust partner and for nominations to be made for trustees.
3. Where there a cluster of schools involved in a Trust, the inclusion of the Council as a partner enables an opportunity for links to Children's Services and other council functions, and allows for democratic involvement. It also provides the potential to link to the work of the Area Committees and partnership working at locality level through extended services cluster partnerships and Area Children Leeds Partnerships.

### Formation of Temple Newsam Learning Partnership: A Co-operative Trust

4. The Temple Newsam Learning Partnership was established on 23 July 2010. The trust includes nine schools in the East of Leeds – Austhorpe Primary School, Colton Primary School, Meadowfield Primary School, Temple Newsam Halton Primary

School, Whitkirk Primary School, Temple Moor High School Science College, Corpus Christi Catholic Primary, Corpus Christi Catholic College, John Jamieson East Leeds SILC. Partners of the trust include the Cooperative Group, Leeds City Council and the YMCA. Discussions held during the development phase led to the suggestion to include one trustee position for the Council in the proposed make up of the Trust Board.

5. The key aims for the Trust are
  - To raise standards of attainment through enabling all pupils to access an innovative curriculum through personalised learning experiences
  - To ensure consistently high expectations across all schools among pupils, parent, carers and staff
  - To meet the lifelong needs of parents and families through the involvement of extended services professionals and the establishment of family and support programmes.
6. The articles of association for the Trust have now been prepared and are appended for information (appendix one). The Trust is now seeking to confirm its proposed trustees. Member Management Committee is therefore asked to consider the appointment of an elected member representative of the local authority to serve as a trustee.

#### **Appointment Process for Elected Members**

7. At its meeting in June 2010 the Committee agreed that it would be the appointing body for these types of appointment.

#### **Implications for Council Policy and Governance**

8. The appointment of elected members to School Trusts contributes to the Council's strategic functions, priorities for children's services and community leadership role. It augments the role of Area Committees with regard to their work on children's services and the content of Area Delivery Plans and provide local democratic input to the work of the School Trusts.
9. As highlighted in the Executive Board report in December 2009 on Area and Locality Governance Arrangements for the Children's Trust, School Trust Partnerships would be able to operate as the locality Children and Young People's Partnership within a significant partnerships framework. It is planned to develop this alongside the emerging School Trust.

#### **Recommendations**

10. It is recommended that the Member Management Committee agree that one elected member of the local authority become a trustee of the new Temple Newsam Learning Partnership school trust.

## **Background Papers**

- Appointment to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules
- Developing and Responding to New Governance Arrangements for Schools in Leeds – Report to Executive Board, January 2009
- Area and Locality Governance Arrangements – Report to Executive Board, December 2009
- Report to MMC – Council representation on school trusts, June 2010