

**Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 12 September 2023**

**Written question from Mr Simon Richards to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills**

Regarding the proposals for Children's Services Future Arrangements, I note that the delivery of school improvement and governance support services by multi-academy trusts has not been included in the report to Cabinet. What are the reasons for excluding this option from the proposals?

***Response***

*The decisions about the delivery of all statutory services will become the gift of the new Isle of Wight Director of Children's Services and their leadership team and are not within the scope of this report.*

*In order to offer stability whilst the new leadership becomes established, Option 2 includes arrangements for buy back for a minimum period of 12 months of specialist services including school improvement and governance. This would allow for smooth transition to take place and provide a stable environment for service delivery whilst allowing time for future arrangements to be fully investigated by the new leadership.*

*In addition to the above, it is important to note that it is not within a Council's gift to academise maintained schools. Even if the Council adopted a policy of proactively persuading schools to become academies, the length of time and Council resource required for each conversion is significant and would extend way beyond the timescale of this paper.*