

REPORT TO CABINET

Title: **BEST KEPT SCHOOL COMPETITION**

Date: 26 March 2009

Member Reporting: Councillor Mrs Quick

Contact Officer(s): Cliff Turner (6367)

Wards Affected: All wards with secondary schools or middle schools

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 As part of her commitment to provide the best possible learning environments for young people, the Lead Member is proposing to establish a 'Best Kept School' competition.
- 1.2 Initially, this initiative will involve secondary schools and middle schools only.
- 1.3 Criteria for the competition will be agreed with schools

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That the Director of Children's Services be asked to liaise with Headteachers of middle and secondary schools to establish criteria and timescales for the Best Kept School competition, to be completed within the academic year 2008/09.

What will be different for residents as a result of this decision?
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Young people will be able to learn in an environment where incidences of littering, graffiti and vandalism are addressed and rectified. They will also learn a valuable lesson in learning to look after their own environment, as the judging criteria for the competition will, after negotiation with headteachers, include an appropriate range of pupil-generated initiatives or activities.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 3.1 In line with the Council's policy of zero tolerance of litter, the Lead Member would like to invite secondary and middle schools to participate in a Best Kept School competition.
- 3.2 It is well known that children and young people learn best when their surroundings are clean and well maintained. The proposed competition would encourage staff, pupils and families to identify any problems with litter, graffiti and vandalism on their school site, and work together to make improvements.

- 3.3 It is proposed that the Director of Children's Services works with Headteachers to establish criteria for judging the competition, the first phase of which would be for secondary and middle schools and would take place in academic year 2008/09. If the competition was a success, it could be extended to include primary schools.
- 3.4 The winning school would attract positive media interest, and would receive a visit from the Leader of the Council.

4. OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 Options

	Option	Comments	Financial Implications
1.	Establish competition for secondary and middle schools	Restricting the number of participating schools to a possible total of 13 would give a manageable number in terms of judging the competition, and would target those schools more likely to experience problems with litter, graffiti and vandalism	Competition would be run using existing resources
2.	Run competition for all schools	Offering the competition to 63 schools would have greater resource implications, as it would be more time consuming.	Greater time commitment for both local authority officers and schools
3.	Don't run competition	Headteachers with whom the proposal has been discussed are in favour of having the competition.	None

4.2 Risk assessment

- 4.2.1 There are no risks inherent in this proposal.
- 4.2.2 Providing schools are appropriately consulted and in favour of the competition, any impacts should be positive, enhancing the school environments, their partnership with the local authority, and how the schools are perceived in their communities and the local media.

5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

- 5.1 Consultation with Headteachers and Governing Bodies via Director of Children's Services.

6. COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

- 6.1 To be reported verbally to Cabinet after Scrutiny Panel on 23 March 2009.

7. IMPLICATIONS

The following implications have been addressed where indicated below.

Financial	Legal	Human Rights Act	Planning	Sustainable Development	Diversity & Equality
✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A

Background Papers: None