Purpose

1. This paper provides the Council with a draft LSC response to the Green Paper: *Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16*.

Recommendation

2. Members of the Council are invited to:
   a) comment on the draft response; and
   b) agree a process for developing the final response.

Background


4. Members have been provided with a copy of the Green Paper. Giving evidence to the Education and Skills Committee of the House of Commons Education and Skills Committee on 18 April, the Secretary of State it as: “a Green Paper with kind of white edges, because we are determined to do this, but need to talk through the ramifications of it”; the draft response has been prepared with that principle in mind.

5. The key proposals in the Green Paper include:
   - from 2013, young people should remain in education or training after 16 – this means the first pupils to be affected would be those entering secondary school in September 2008 (the Green Paper makes it clear
that the date of 2013 is proposed because only then would it be expected that all Diploma lines would be available throughout England.

- young people would be required to work towards accredited qualifications at school, in a college, or in “on the job” training or day release

- Apprenticeships will be significantly expanded so that they are available to any qualified young person who wants one

- participation should be full time for young people not in employment for a significant part of the week and part time for those working more than 20 hours a week

- better advice and guidance for young people to enable them to access the provision that is right for them

- high quality, accurate registration system to keep track of the education options a young person has chosen and to make sure they do not drop out

- building on the Education Maintenance Allowance, consider new financial support measures to ensure young people from low income backgrounds get the support they need to overcome any barriers to participation.

**Developing the LSC Response**

6 Consultation on the Green Paper runs until 14 June. The following process for developing the LSC response is suggested:

- initial consideration of the Green Paper by the YPLC (19 April)

- a draft response is prepared, taking account of the views of the YPLC, and circulated to regional offices (April)

- the draft response is considered by full Council (9 May)

- a revised draft, taking account of comments made, is considered by the Committee (24 May)

- the final response agreed by the Chair of the Council (by Thursday 14 June).

**Clearance**

This paper has been cleared by Melanie Hunt, National Director of Learning
Communications

No external communications necessary.

Impact assessment

The central proposal in the Green Paper – that all young people should stay in education or training until age 18 – is described in terms of the positive impact on the economy, as described in the Leitch Report; and in terms of the improved life chances for young people.

Resources

As the first stage of the proposal – raising the age of participation to 17 – is not planned until 2013, any associated costs will fall within the next Comprehensive Spending Review.

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Date created: 26 April 2007
Document ref.: H: councilmay2007