

- (1) That this Council notes:-
  - (a) That the successes of the system of education in Leicestershire have reflected a historical mix of public and private provision, including grammar schools.
  - (b) That the nature of the local education system has changed fundamentally since the 1990s in line with the policy of successive Governments to give parents greater choice and to give schools more responsibility and accountability.
  - (c) That the Government's current consultation covers proposals in four key areas:-
    - (i) Independent schools directly assisting the state-funded sector, through creating more good places, and giving more choice and control for parents.
    - (ii) Universities playing a direct role in improving school quality and pupil attainment.
    - (iii) Selective schools providing more school places, and ensuring that they are open to children from all backgrounds.
    - (iv) Faith schools delivering more good school places, while meeting strengthened safeguards on inclusivity.
  - (d) That in undertaking this consultation the Government is seeking to address three issues:-

- (i) Radically to expand the number of good school places available to all families, not just those who can afford to move into the catchment area, go private, pay for tuition to pass selective tests or belong to certain faiths.
  - (ii) Give all schools with a strong track record, experience and valuable expertise the right incentives to expand their offer to even more pupils, driving up standards and giving parents greater control.
  - (iii) Deliver a diverse school system that gives all children, whatever their background, the opportunity to help them achieve their potential.
- (2) That this Council therefore welcomes the Government Consultation paper as an important step in the debate about improving standards and attainment in schools, creating many more new good school places, providing diversity within the education system and thereby improving choice and opportunity for all.