

REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW OF MAIN POLICY PAPERS IMPACTING ON SCHOOLS - CONSULTATION MEETINGS JANUARY 2007

Purpose

- Raise Awareness
- Provide forum for discussion
- Facilitate response from schools to DE

The following 5 Policy papers will be the main focus of the meeting:-

Paper 1 – The RPA in Education : An Overview

Paper 2 – Relationship between ESA and Schools

Paper 4 – Relationship between DE and Stakeholders

Paper 5 – Governance and Accountability

Paper 13 – School Improvement

Paper 1 – Overview

Para

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Proposed Model for RPA

- Create policy and administrative framework which:-
 - fosters and supports schools as main drivers of educational improvement;
 - enables schools to achieve greater autonomy; and
 - enables schools to assume enhanced responsibility for raising standards of teaching and learning.
- Education support and ancillary services needed by schools will be funded by ESA in a coherent, consistent and cost effective manner.
- Strategic vision and direction will be provided by DE.

Paper 2 – Relationship between ESA and Schools

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- ESA will support schools and hold them to account.

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- Schools will have maximised supported autonomy, depending on schools' wishes, their capability and level of support sought.

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- Single set of administrative arrangements to support all schools though schools can maintain their own identity and ethos.

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- ESA may provide support services through Service Level Agreements proofed through competition.

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- Boards of Governors have statutory role for raising standards.

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- Guiding principle on accountability is self-improvement by schools with ESA intervention normally limited to minimum necessary to support Boards of Governors.

Paper 4 – Relationship between DE and Stakeholders

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- 2 • Education Advisory Forum (EAF) as unified advisory interface between DE and education sector, also meet Minister regularly.
 - 8 • EAF chair appointed by Minister; secretariat seconded from DE.
 - 13 • Strong argument for retention of some sectoral support capacity.
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Paper 5 – Governance and Accountability

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- 6 • ESA Board accountable to DE and DEL, 8-12 members, chair appointed by Minister.
 - 12 • ESA accountability to be defined in new Financial Memorandum and Management Statement.
 - 15 • Maximum delegation of financial and other responsibilities to schools requiring detailed set of financial arrangements between ESA and individual schools.
 - 20 • 4 governor categories – Foundation, Community, Staff and Parent.
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Paper 13 – School Improvement

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- 7 • For every school the policy is likely to propose self-evaluation and self-improvement.
 - 8 • Annual meeting between principal, school governors and ESA representative to discuss school's performance against PIs.
 - 9 • ETI inspects schools ... benchmarked against schools of a similar type.
 - 9 • Finite time limit for improvement 2-3 years.
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TH/DR