

## APPENDIX 1

### Proposals for Change by Tudor Grange Academy Short, Sharp Review Response from Worcestershire County Council

The following information has been received from Worcestershire County Council in response to recommendations 2 and 3 made by the Proposals for Change by Tudor Grange Academy Short, Sharp Review in December 2014.

**Recommendation 2: We recommend that Worcestershire County Council should consult with Borough Councillors alongside County Councillors when commissioning educational services (within the remit of the Head of Learning and Achievement).**

Response:

Worcestershire County Council is reaching the end of the consultation for the commissioning process that was discussed with the scrutiny group in September 2014. It would be difficult at this late stage to involve Borough Councillors in the consultation process.

However, under the commissioning framework the Council will have a changing relationship with local schools. Worcestershire County Council is keen to explore new opportunities to involve Councillors, including Borough Councillors in Redditch, in this process. Worcestershire County Council recognises that local Councillors have invaluable knowledge about their local communities and can help in developing good working relationships with schools. To ensure that Councillors can make a constructive contribution Worcestershire County Council would be keen to start to engage with local Councillors in the early spring in 2015.

**Recommendation 3: Worcestershire County Council, as the local education authority, should produce written guides about the education system and the process that needs to be followed when changes are made to schools. These guides should be produced in plain English and should be made available for parents and other interested stakeholders to access.**

Response:

Members are asked to note that written guidance on this subject is already produced by the Department for Education (DfE) and this is available for the public to obtain from the department's website.

There are mixed education systems in Worcestershire. As such, whilst a three-tier education system is in place in the Borough there are many parts of the county where a two-tier system is in operation. Worcestershire County Council needs to be careful to ensure that information provided on the Council's website caters to the needs of all students and parents in the whole of the county.

The Council is currently in the process of meeting with local schools to discuss potential changes to those schools. As part of this process the schools are responsible for liaising with parents and pupils. By producing written guidelines there is a risk that Worcestershire County Council would be duplicating the schools' communications which could lead to some confusion. Therefore, whilst recognising the importance of communications, Officers at Worcestershire County Council would suggest that instead schools should be encouraged to communicate in an effective manner with parents.