

**Cabinet**

**7 March 2012**



**Examination and Test Results 2011**

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**Report of Corporate Management Team**

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**Councillor Claire Vasey, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. This report sets out the nationally validated results from Key Stage 2 tests and GCSE (and equivalent) examinations for 2011. These are seen as the key outcome measures for Primary and Secondary education respectively.

**Key Stage 2**

**Background**

2. At the end of the primary stage of education there are formal assessments of pupils' attainment in mathematics and English. This is through externally set and marked tests for all 11 year-olds. The assessments are against pre-set levels, with level 4 being the "expected level" for this age group and level 5 being the highest achievable through the tests.

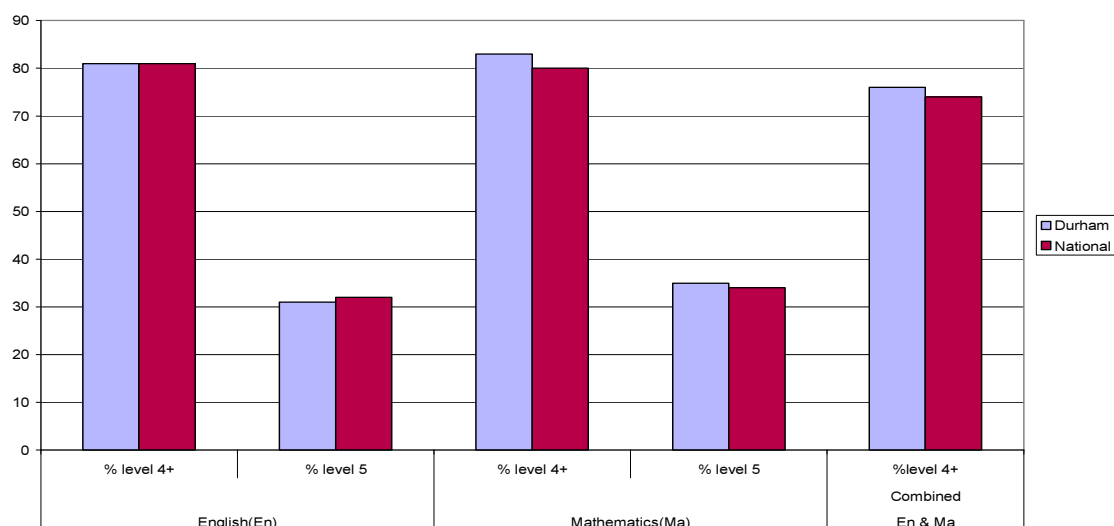
**Outcomes**

3. Table 1 overleaf sets out the percentage of pupils in Durham and nationally that achieved the expected level and the higher level in English, Mathematics and the two subjects combined. These are the national benchmark measures for the attainment of 11 year olds.

**Table 1**

KS2 2011	English(En)		Mathematics(Ma)		En & Ma Combined
	% level 4+	% level 5	% level 4+	% level 5	%level 4+
Durham	81	31	83	35	76
National	81	32	80	34	74

Key Stage 2 results 2011

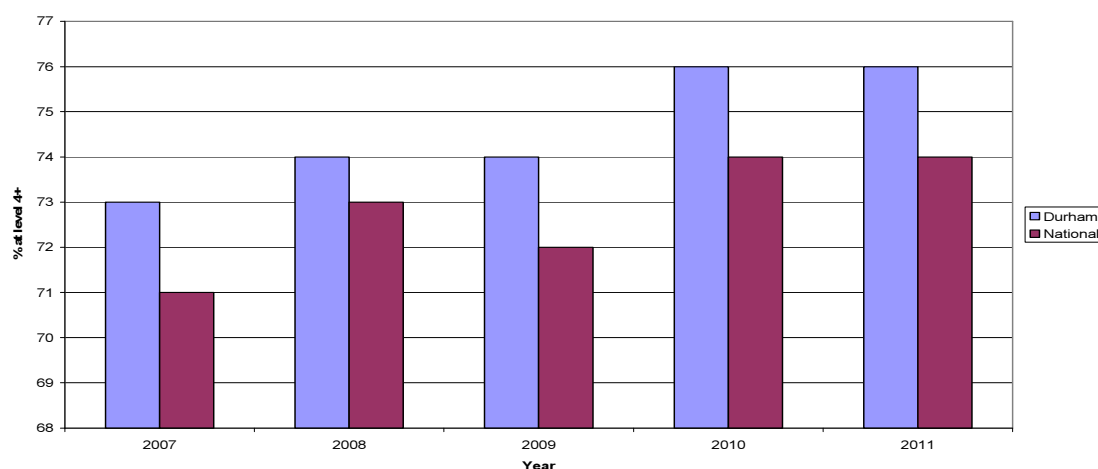


4. Results for Durham are at or above average for all measures except the achievement of the higher level in English. Increasingly, the national benchmark is recognised as the percentage of pupils achieving level 4 in English and mathematics and in this measure Durham is currently and has been consistently above the national average.

Table 2

% level 4+ in both English and Maths	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Durham</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>

Key Stage 2 % pupils at level 4+ in both English and Mathematics



5. This is an impressive achievement as outcomes at Key Stage 1 (7 year-olds), the starting point for these pupils, are slightly lower in Durham than nationally reflecting the below average attainment of pupils in Durham on entry to

education. Progress between key stages 1 and 2 is now measured nationally through an analysis of the percentage of pupils who achieve or exceed their predicted levels at KS2. The good progress by pupils in Durham, using this measure, is illustrated by Table 3 below.

**Table 3**

<b>% making expected progress from KS1</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Mathematics</b>
<b>Durham</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>83</b>

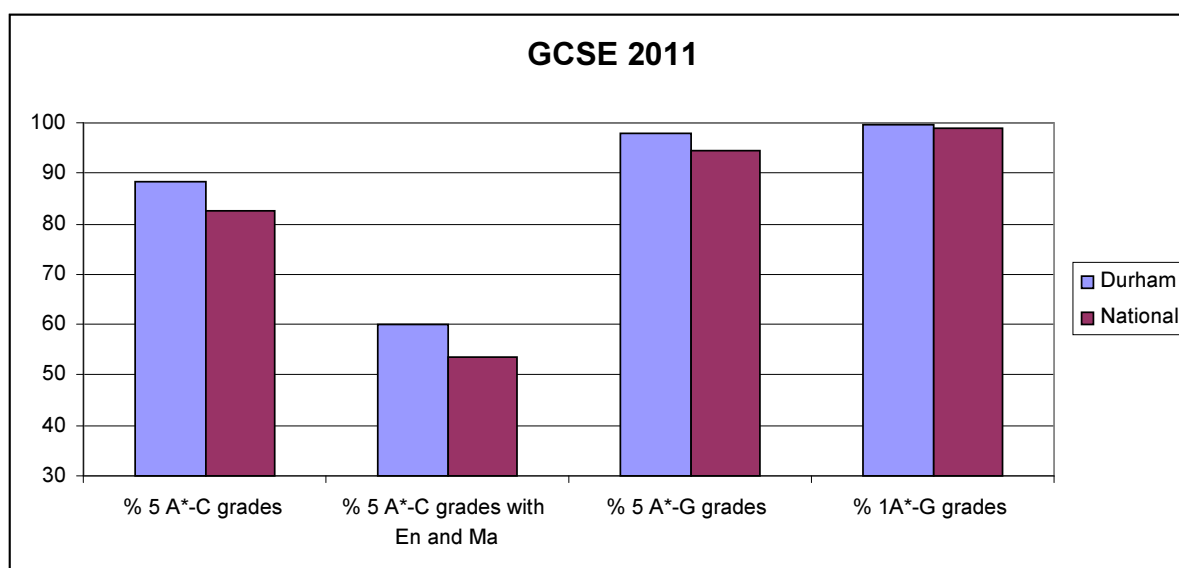
6. Overall these results for 11-year-olds demonstrate that, on average, by the end of the primary phase children in Durham are performing at, and on many measures, above what would be expected for their age.

### **Key Stage 4 Background**

7. The end of Key Stage 4 represents the end of compulsory schooling. Assessment is through externally set and marked GCSE and GCSE equivalent examinations across a very wide range of subjects and courses. These are graded from A\*-G and the national benchmarks of achievement are set out in Table 4.

**Table 4**

<b>GCSE and equivalent 2011</b>	<b>% 5 A*-C grades</b>	<b>% 5 A*-C grades with En and Ma</b>	<b>% 5 A*-G grades</b>	<b>% 1 A*-G grade</b>	<b>Average Points Score per pupil</b>
<b>Durham</b>	<b>88.4</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>532.3</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>82.7</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>455.8</b>



8. In 2011 once again Durham was above the national average in all of the recognised national benchmarks. The 2011 results continue a long-term trend of improvement in the key 5 A\*-C measures and the 5 A\*-C including English and mathematics as set out in tables 5 & 6.

**Table 5**

<b>% GCSE and equivalent 5 A*-C</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Durham</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>65.5</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>88.4</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>82.7</b>

**Table 6**

<b>% GCSE and equivalent 5 A*-C Including En &amp; Ma</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Durham</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>59.9</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>58.3</b>

9. These tables show that the year-on-year rate of improvement in GCSE outcomes in Durham, against both measures, across the county over the period 2006-2011 has been substantially greater than that nationally. When considering the benchmark 5 A\*-C (including English and maths) measure, Durham is now comfortably within the top third of Authorities nationally, well above the average of our statistical neighbours and performing better than counties such as Oxfordshire, West Sussex, Cambridgeshire and West Berkshire.

### **Conclusion**

10. Test and examination outcomes for children and young people in Durham continue to compare favourably with the national picture and, in the key benchmark measures for 11-year-olds and 16-year-olds, performance is at or above the national average.

### **Recommendation**

11. Cabinet is recommended to note the content of this report

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance - None**

**Staffing - None**

**Risk -** Potential reputational issues if results dip in the future.

**Equality and Diversity -** Results and school performance outcomes are analysed to evaluate the performance of all groups of pupils.

**Accommodation - None**

**Crime and Disorder - None**

**Human Rights - None**

**Consultation -** Any changes to school monitoring systems subject to consultation with schools.

**Procurement - None**

**Disability Discrimination Act - None**

**Legal Implications - None**