

<b>Committee(s):</b> Education Board Policy & Resources Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 23 May 2019 6 June 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Review of the City's education grant funding	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk & Chief Executive	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Polly Dunn, Town Clerk's	

### Summary

This report seeks approval to undertake an independent review into the City's education grant funding activities and to establish a joint Education Board and Policy & Resources Committee Working Party, to assist with the work of the review and report back recommendations to the relevant Grand Committees.

The scope of the proposed review is set out below, as well as the proposed terms of reference (appendix 1), composition and frequency of meetings of the Working Party.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Consider and agree the scope of the independent review of City Education Grant Funding;
- Consider and agree the terms of reference of the City Education Grant Funding Joint Working Party as set out in appendix 1;
- Appoint Members to the Working Party; and
- Approve that any further changes to the terms of reference of the Working Party be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of both the Education Board and Policy & Resources Committee.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. At the end of 2016, the Education Board, Resource Allocation Sub Committee and Policy & Resources Committee considered a report on grant funding for Christ's Hospital and King Edward's School Witley. Discussions led to expressed dissatisfaction with the process at which the education grant funding allocations had been arrived at. It was proposed that a working party be constituted to look at how the City could most effectively allocate grant funding to its Family of Schools.
2. The matter of the City's spending on education related activities more broadly was revisited by the Education Board at its meeting in May 2018. The Board once

again recommended the establishment of a working group to consider more consistent methods for deciding education fund allocation.

### **Current Position**

3. These recommendations were taken away and progressed by the Chair of the Education Board in consultation with the Town Clerk and Chair to the Policy & Resources Committee.
4. During consultations it was agreed that an independent review would be commissioned, and that this review was to be supported by a joint working party of the Education Board and Policy & Resources Committee. An independent Chair to conduct this review had been sought and in February 2019 Sir Mike Tomlinson CBE was appointed.
5. Sir Mike Tomlinson assisted the Town Clerk, Chair of Policy & Resources and Chair of the Education Board with the following proposed scope of the review:
  - i) To review grant funding provided by the City of London Corporation for its Family of Schools, consulting the affiliated Working Party, Members, officers, Chairs of Governors and Principals of those schools as necessary;
  - ii) To assess and report on the impact of such funding and how it correlates to the City of London Corporation's strategic priorities;
  - iii) To provide recommendations to the Working Party on the method of City grant funding that will optimise impact for recipient children whilst respecting the City of London Corporation's historical links; and
  - iv) To report to Policy & Resources and the Education the recommendations as approved by the Working Party.
6. The draft terms of reference outlining the role of the Working Party in relation to the review are outlined in appendix 1. A proposed composition will be tabled at Committee.
7. In their present form, the terms of reference resolve that Members appointed to the Working Party would be responsible for the purpose of consultation and oversight of the Chair's final recommendations to the Policy & Resources Committee and the Education Board.
8. If approved, the working party will meet three times over the course of four months, with the final recommendations of the working party to be delivered to the November 2019 meetings of the Education Board and Policy & Resources Committee.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

9. Current City grant funding arrangements for educational activities are not sufficient in enabling the vision of the City of London Corporation to be fulfilled as set out in the 2018-23 Corporate Plan. In order for to Corporation to ensure

*people have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential,* grant giving should have a stronger framework and link more directly to the Education, Culture & Creative Learning, and Skills strategies.

## **Financial Implications**

10. Sir Mike Tomlinson has agreed to conduct the review pro bono, with reasonable reimbursement of expenses incurred whilst undertaking any activities relating to the review. The other primary cost of this review to the Corporation will be in City Corporation staff resource. Cost implications of any of the final recommendations will be considered at the point of reporting and/or implementation.

## **Conclusion**

11. It is hoped that an independent review into City grant funding of education activities will enable greater impact for the money spent in the sector, ultimately leading to the improved educational offering of the City of London Corporation.

12. Members wishing to express an interest in sitting on the working party can do so by emailing [polly.dunn@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:polly.dunn@cityoflondon.gov.uk).

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Draft Terms of Reference for the joint City Grants Review Working Party.

## **Background Papers**

- City of London Corporation Grants Review: Grant Funding for Christ's Hospital and King Edward's School Witley (*Education Board – November 2016*) (*Policy & Resources – December 2016*)
- Analysis of the City's Spending on Education Related Activities (*Education Board – May 2018*)

## **Polly Dunn**

Senior Committee and Member Services Officer

T: 020 7332 3726

E: [polly.dunn@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:polly.dunn@cityoflondon.gov.uk)