

Committee(s): Education Board – For decision Policy & Resources – For decision	Date(s): 23 May 2019 6 June 2019
Subject: Revised Education Board Terms of Reference	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: Polly Dunn	

Summary

At its meeting of March 2019, the Policy & Resources Committee queried proposed changes to the Education Board's 2019/20 terms of reference and requested that the Education Board refine the wording to resolve the concerns. This report highlights what these concerns were, how they have been addressed, and seeks approval for the revised terms of reference.

Recommendation(s)

That Members approve:

- the revised terms of reference of the Board, as set out at Appendix 1, subject to any comments, for submission to the Policy and Resources Committee and onward approval at the Court of Common Council; and
- that any further changes required be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

Main Report

Background

1. At its meeting of 10 January 2019, the Education Board approved a change to its terms of reference to incorporate mention of its three defined strands of its strategy: Education, Cultural & Creative Learning, and Skills.
2. The revised terms of reference were submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee in March 2019 for approval. The Committee raised concerns over potential confusion and conflict between the work of the Education Board and that of the Policy & Resources Committee specifically in relation to skills and the work of the Economic Development Office; for instance, the work delivered with Central London Forward and in relation to employability. There was also a call for clarity between the relationship between the Gresham (City Side) Committee and Education Board.
3. Alternative wording was drafted, however, due to the complexity of the concerns raised, the Comptroller & City Solicitor was consulted, and the matter was not resolved in time for the Court of Common Council's Appointment of Committees

for 2019/20. As a result, paragraph 4(b) the Education Board's proposed 2019/20 terms of reference were returned back to their 2018/19 form pending further work. The Court Order was otherwise approved.

Current Position

Please note the following paragraph 4 was revised and tabled at the Education Board on 23 May 2019, following its original publication for the Education Board on 15 May 2019.

4. The advice of the City Solicitor & Comptroller on the two concerns of the Policy & Resources Committee is incorporated in the summary below:

Gresham (City Side) Committee and Gresham College

The Gresham (City Side) Committee's terms of reference reflect the City of London Corporation's responsibilities under Sir Thomas Gresham's Will as amended by subsequent Acts of Parliament; these obligations are outlined in the Gresham (City Side) Committee's Terms of Reference and summarised in Appendix 2. Gresham College is an arms-length charitable company. As such the City Corporation does not have any responsibility for the direct delivery of education, cultural learning or skills activities in respect of the Gresham (City Side) Committee or Gresham College. Therefore, given the specific nature of the City Corporation's obligations under the Will (as amended), the Education Board's Terms of Reference would not encompass the City Corporation's discharge of these obligations.

Scope of responsibility relating to the Economic Development Office

The desire of the Education Board at its meeting of 10 January 2019 was to include skills and employability in its terms of reference insofar as these responsibilities are consistent with the Education Board's strategies and do not encroach on the work of any other committees. This reflects the intention at the time the Education Board was established.

Additional matters

It is noted that the concerns raised by the Policy & Resources in relation to skills, could also be applicable to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee in respect of the Education Board's Creative & Cultural Learning strategy.

5. Grammar amendments have been indicated throughout the terms of reference for consistency purposes.
6. In addressing the Education Boards wished-for changes and the Policy & Resources Committee's concerns, whilst upholding responsibilities originally bestowed to the Education Board upon its establishment, the revised terms of reference have been proposed in appendix 3.

Conclusion

7. Members are invited to comment on, and approve, the revised Education Board Terms of Reference at appendix 3, for onward approval by the Policy & Resources Committee and Court of Common Council.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft revised Education Board Terms of Reference
- Appendix 2 – Responsibilities of the City of London Corporation under Thomas Gresham's Will (as amended by subsequent Acts of Parliament)

Background Papers

- Public Minutes of the Education Board meeting held on 10 January 2019
- Public Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held 14 March 2019.
- *The creation of the Education Board (March 2014)*

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