

<b>Meeting(s):</b> Education Board	<b>Date(s):</b> 23 July 2015
<b>Subject:</b> Refreshing the Education Strategy 2013-15	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Report of Town Clerk	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>This report invites members of the Education Board to provide comments and feedback on the Education Strategy 2013-15, so that the strategy can be refreshed ahead of approval by the Court of Common Council in late 2015. The paper summarises comments made on potential areas of development for the strategy and sets some parameters for discussion.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members are asked to review the Education Strategy 2013-15 and provide comments for incorporation into the forthcoming refreshed Education Strategy.</li> </ul>	

### Main Report

#### **Background**

1. The City of London Corporation's Education Strategy is due to be refreshed. The purpose of this paper is to seek feedback from the Education Board on the current strategy that will inform its next iteration. The refreshed strategy will then be submitted to the Board in late 2015 for approval for submission to the Court of Common Council.
2. Members are encouraged to provide feedback on the totality of the Education Strategy 2013-15. Areas for discussion include,
  - a. The relevance of the strategy's content going forward into 2016 and beyond, including the scope for amending, removing and adding material, and restructuring the strategy.
  - b. How the refreshed strategy can best reflect the Board's priorities.
  - c. The potential for each of the five strands of the strategy to be updated for 2016.
  - d. The recommendations of the Employability Forum and the Learning and Engagement Forum.

#### **Current Position**

3. When considering areas in which the strategy can be refreshed, members will recall a presentation at the Board's January 2015 meeting during which the Policy Chairman outlined his thoughts on the reasons for adopting the Education Strategy 2013-15. These included the need to improve the City Corporation's role as an academy sponsor; improve cooperation across the City Family of Schools; define and improve the appointment process of City Corporation school governors; increase collaboration with the Livery on education issues; and encourage greater education outreach by the City of London. Overall, the strategy should support the City Corporation in being a leader in fostering social mobility.

4. Members noted at the May 2015 Board meeting that priority areas for 2015/16 included adoption of a policy with which to evaluate proposals for new City academies; review of current City academy governance; the creation of a pool of governors for the City Family of Schools, and clarification of how the Board can influence the City of London Corporation's approach to employability. Members also raised the possibility of merging the first two strands of the strategy, and bringing a refreshed City Corporation 'vision' for education that would create an ethos both for the overall City Corporation education offer, and for City-appointed governors. Lastly, one further area for development would be to expand the scope of the strategy to cover post-18 education.
5. The Employability Forum of the City of London Corporation met on 8 July 2015 to discuss the strategy refresh and, in relation to strand 4, recommended that the Board discuss in particular the Board's approach to careers advice in schools, work-related learning and workplace interaction, and monitoring workplace destinations for City Family of School-leavers.
6. The Learning and Engagement Forum will be meeting to discuss the strategy refresh on 23 July 2015 and a verbal update on its recommendations will be provided at the Board's 23 July meeting. When the Board discussed strand 3 at its December 2014 meeting, members noted that the strand would benefit from inclusion of partnership working, sport, and potentially fostering Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in addition to arts and culture, where appropriate. Members have also noted that fostering 'soft' skills has equal importance to individual academic performance.
7. Members are reminded that the Education Board is directly responsible for the City academies, and has oversight for the overall City of London Corporation education 'offer', which implies the Board can choose to exercise a scrutiny function (but not in the statutory sense) to ensure the City Corporation's approach to education is coherent and effective as possible.

## **Conclusion**

8. Members are invited to provide comments on how the Education Strategy 2013-15 can be refreshed for 2016 and beyond.

## **Appendices**

- Education Strategy 2013-15

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