

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Education Board	3 March 2016
<b>Subject:</b> Education Strategy Update Report	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>

### **Summary**

This report provides Members of the Education Board with a summary of key developments in the delivery of the City of London Corporation Education Strategy. Each of the five strategic objectives of the Education Strategy is addressed (paragraphs 3 – 7) with examples of recent work and future activities.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Members are asked to: note the report.

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. The City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013 – 2015 established five strategic objectives. Each objective is underpinned by a series of recommendations. Every recommendation identifies a key deliverable that the City Corporation is seeking to achieve and details specific actions that will facilitate this.

#### **Current Position**

2. The implementation of the Education Strategy is overseen by the Education Board. This report provides Members of the Education Board with a summary of key developments in the delivery of the Education Strategy. Each of the five strategic objectives of the Education Strategy is addressed (paragraphs 3 – 7) with examples of recent work and future activities.

#### **Education Strategy Update**

3. Strategic Objective 1: To promote and support excellent education and access to higher education
  - a) On 26 January 2016 the City schools Concert took place in the Great Hall, Guildhall. Each of the eight City schools performed two musical items, acts ranged from a string orchestra recital of Bach to a Gospel Medley choir performance.

- b) On 27 January 2016 the Corporation awarded the Freedom of the City of London to two men who stood in the dock with Nelson Mandela during the Rivonia Trial and two lawyers who were part of their defence team. Prior to the freedom ceremony Lord Peter Hain hosted a Q&A session with the four men. Students from City of London Freeman's School, City of London Academy (Southwark), The City Academy, Hackney, City of London Academy, Islington and City of London School for Girls attended and took part in the Q&A. The students heard a first-hand account of life in apartheid South Africa, the struggle for freedom, and how the country has changed since 1994.
- c) On 25 January the staff of City of London Academy (Southwark) attended a teatime reception at Guildhall. The event was to recognise the hard work and dedication of students, staff and governors at the school and celebrate their summer exam results.

4. Strategic Objective 2: To strive for excellence in the City schools

- a) A Level Subject Workshops were held throughout January and February 2016 by teachers in the City secondary schools. The workshops provide a chance to share advice and best practice for teaching a particular subject in order to help A Level students in all the schools achieve top grades. Workshops have taken place for Politics & Government, Maths, Physics, Music and Psychology.
- b) Directors of Sixth Form met on 20 January 2016 and discussed methods to prepare students for the Oxbridge application process, strategies to adapt to A Level specification changes and opportunities for joint City school events.
- c) The Headteachers' Forum met on 24 February 2016, they were addressed by the Town Clerk and discussed the City Family of Schools' vision statement, the MAT structure and scheme of delegation, and mental health at City schools.

5. Strategic Objective 3: To inspire children through an enriched education and outreach opportunities

- a) Members will receive an update on this as a separate agenda item.

6. Strategic Objective 4: To promote an effective transition from education to employment

- a) Promoting apprenticeships in the City – A round table for City law firms to hear about opportunities for apprenticeships in the legal sector took place on 15 January, delivered in partnership with the National Apprenticeships Service. The event, attended by law firms based in the City and wider London, focused on the new high level apprenticeships that are available for legal roles including solicitor, legal executive and paralegal. A further event, co-hosted by Alderman Parmley, who has recently joined the

Government's Apprenticeship Delivery Board, and Nadhim Zahawi MP, the Prime Minister's Adviser on apprenticeships, will take place on 23 March. The event will focus on the upcoming apprenticeships levy and practical implications for businesses in the financial and professional services sectors.

- b) City Careers Open House – The procurement process is underway to extend the City Careers Open House programme for one year, to the end of the academic year 2016/17. The programme facilitates visits to City businesses for over 2,000 students per year from state primary and secondary schools in the City and neighbouring boroughs. The programme aims to raise awareness of the breadth of careers available and routes into these careers.
  - c) In January, The City Academy, Hackney welcomed three guest speakers from the City of London School for Girls, the Barbican Centre, and Culture Heritage and Libraries who delivered careers talks to year 12 students. All talks received excellent feedback. Additional talks are being scheduled at The City of London Academy (Southwark) and the offer has been extended to City of London Academy, Islington.
  - d) We are participating in an 'Urban Leadership Programme' with The City Academy, Hackney and KPMG, which will support students to differentiate themselves on UCAS applications by taking part in a community action project. Students will be supported by volunteers to develop a social enterprise project, and through the process will develop employability, leadership, and entrepreneurial skills. The programme derives from City of London's participation in a cluster of businesses invested in Hackney-based schools
  - e) 12 City of London volunteers from different departments have been recruited to host stands at the April careers fair for the City schools. EDO is supporting the schools by reaching out to business contacts.
7. Strategic Objective 5: To explore opportunities to expand the City's education portfolio and influence on education throughout London
- a) On 10 and 11 February 2016 the City Corporation held two public consultation events, in partnership with the London Borough of Hackney, to provide parents with the opportunity to hear more about the City Corporation's application to open two additional secondary schools in Hackney.
  - b) On 2 March 2016 City of London Academies Trust submitted four applications to the Education Funding Agency in relation to opening two new schools in Hackney and sponsoring schools in Islington and Newham.
  - c) The Board of Trustees for City of London Academies Trust has held two meetings where it has, inter alia, considered: the appointment of co-opted trustees, a Scheme of Delegation, CEO Appointment and Recruitment,

Appointment of Professional Advisors, applications to sponsor additional schools, and requested a review of MAT operations.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

8. The Education Strategy complements and supports the City Corporation's corporate policies and objectives, as set out in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017.

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