

Committee	Dated:
Education Board	17 May 2018
Subject: City of London Academies Trust expansion	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Jeanne Barnard	

Summary

The Education Board was asked to clarify its position regarding the expansion of the City of London Academies Trust (the Trust). Members are asked to agree to reinforce the original agreement of a maximum of 12 academies in the Trust made by the Education Board at its meeting in July 2015. This number would only be exceeded in exceptional circumstances. The recommendation consolidates and reinforces the original position originally agreed to. Members are also asked to approve an updated version of the due diligence template used to decide on whether to approve another school to join the Trust, attached at **Appendix 1**.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Agree to reiterate their original commitment to a maximum of 12 academies in the Trust.
- Note that any schools applying are expected to meet the criteria of aligning with strategic education priorities and considered to meet the due diligence criteria, and that it has been requested by the relevant local authority, Regional Schools Commissioner or the Department for Education that the school joins the Trust.
- Approve the revised due diligence template attached at **Appendix 1**.

Main Report

Background

1. At its meeting in July 2015, the Education Board agreed to Trust expansion of between 9 – 12 academies.
2. The Education Board approved the Trust due diligence template at its meeting on 15 October 2015. The Trust due diligence template is used to assess schools which have asked to join the Trust. The template is completed by City of London Corporation officers and provides relevant information to the Education Board to decide on whether to approve a school to join the Trust.

Current Position

3. There are currently eight academies in the Trust. There are also discussions about whether the City Corporation's two co-sponsored academies, The City Academy Hackney and the City of London Academy Islington, will join the Trust.

There have also recently been two applications from schools to join the Trust. No decisions have been made about any of these academies/schools joining the Trust.

4. The current due diligence template has not been reviewed since it was approved in 2015. The Chairman of the Education Board requested that the template be updated to ensure all relevant information is included, and that it reflects the broader context of the local authorities the schools are in.

Proposal

5. Members are asked to agree to reinforce their original commitment made in 2015 to a maximum of 12 academies in the Trust. This recommendation reiterates the Board's original commitment and confirms there has been no change in policy regarding the maximum number in terms of academies expansion.
6. Members are also asked to note that the criteria for any new schools joining the Trust would include that the school joining would need to meet strategic education priorities and considered to meet the due diligence criteria. The Education Board would also consider an application from a school if requested by the relevant local authority, the Regional Schools Commissioner, or the Department for Education.
7. Members are also asked to approve the attached revised due diligence template. The revised template considers the local authority context of the school, and the financial and resourcing implications for the Trust. The updated Trust due diligence template is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Conclusion

8. This report asks Members to reiterate their commitment to a maximum of 12 academies in the Trust. This report also asks Members to approve the updated Trust due diligence template, which was originally approved by the Education Board on 15 October 2015. The updated template ensures all relevant information will be included, and that the broader context of relevant local authorities is considered.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Revised City of London Academies Trust due diligence template

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