



Education Board

Date: THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2015

Time: 3.00 pm

Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM - 2ND FLOOR WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members: Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chairman)
Henry Colthurst (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy John Bennett
Revd Dr Martin Dudley
Alderman Peter Estlin
Alderman The Lord Mountevans
Stuart Fraser
Christopher Hayward
Virginia Rounding
Alderman William Russell
Ian Seaton
Philip Woodhouse
Roy Blackwell (United Westminster Schools)
Tim Campbell (Bright Ideas Trust)
Helen Sanson (Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership)
David Taylor (Livery Schools Link)

Enquiries: Alistair MacLellan
Alistair.MacLellan@cityoflondon.gov.uk

NB: Part of this meeting could be the subject of audio video recording.

**John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive**

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
3. **PUBLIC MINUTES**
To agree the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 23 July 2015.

For Decision
(Pages 1 - 6)
- a) **Actions** (Pages 7 - 10)
4. **EDUCATION STRATEGY UPDATE**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

For Information
(Pages 11 - 16)
5. **EDUCATION STRATEGY 2016 REFRESH**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

For Decision
(Pages 17 - 22)
6. **GOVERNANCE OF CITY ACADEMIES**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services – *to follow*.

For Decision
7. **CITY SCHOOLS: PRIORITISATION FOR ACADEMY EXPANSION - UPDATE**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

For Decision
(Pages 23 - 26)
8. **QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK 2015/16**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

For Decision
(Pages 27 - 30)
9. **REQUEST FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY - APPOINTMENT OF ACADEMY GOVERNOR (CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY ISLINGTON)**
Report of the Town Clerk.

For Decision
(Pages 31 - 32)

10. **SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
- For Decision**
(Pages 33 - 38)
11. **EDUCATION AND ADOPTION BILL**
Report of The Remembrancer.
- For Information**
(Pages 39 - 42)
12. **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS AT CHRIST'S HOSPITAL**
Report of the Town Clerk – *to follow*.
- For Information**
13. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**
14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
15. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**
MOTION - That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act
- For Decision**
16. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
To agree the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2015.
- For Decision**
(Pages 43 - 44)
17. **UN-VALIDATED EXAMINATION RESULTS 2015**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
- For Information**
(Pages 45 - 60)
18. **NON PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**
19. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

The Education Board has responsibility for five key strands.

Strand 1 – To promote and support excellent education and access to higher education.

Strand 2 – To strive for excellence in City Schools.

Strand 3 – To inspire children through an enriched education and outreach opportunities.

Strand 4 – To promote an effective transition from education to employment.

Strand 5 – To explore opportunities to expand the City's education portfolio and influence on education throughout London.

EDUCATION BOARD

Thursday, 23 July 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Board held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor
West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 23 July 2015 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Catherine McGuinness (Chairman)	Alderman William Russell
Henry Colthurst (Deputy Chairman)	Ian Seaton
Deputy John Bennett	Roy Blackwell
Revd Dr Martin Dudley	Tim Campbell
Alderman Peter Estlin	Helen Sanson
Alderman The Lord Mountevans	David Taylor
Virginia Rounding	

Officers:

Alistair MacLellan	Town Clerk's Department
Ade Adetosoye	Community & Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	Community & Children's Services
Mark Jarvis	Chamberlain's Department
Liz Skelcher	Economic Development Office
Joshua Burton	Community & Children's Services
Anne Pietsch	Comptrollers and City Solicitor's Department
Emily Rimington	Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Stuart Fraser, Christopher Hayward and Philip Woodhouse.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Deputy John Bennett

Barbican Centre Board

Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School

Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama

Tim Campbell

Bright Ideas Trust

Board of Governors, St. Bonaventure's School

Henry Colthurst

Board of Governors, Mossbourne Community Academy

Board of Mossbourne Federation

Member of Court of the Worshipful Company of Grocers

Reverend Dr Martin Dudley
City of London Academy Islington

Alderman Peter Estlin
Treasurer, Bridewell Royal Hospital - King Edward's School, Witley
Barclays LifeSkills, Senior Advisor
Guildhall Advisory Board (Business & Law Faculty of City University)

Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Board of Governors of The City Academy, Hackney
Castle Baynard Educational Foundation & Alderman Samuel Wilson Fund
United Westminster Schools Foundation
Board of School Governors and Council of Almoners, Christ's Hospital
Barbican Centre Board
Guildhall School Development Fund

Alderman The Lord Mountevans
Board of Governors of the City of London Academy Islington
Council of Almoners, Christ's Hospital

Virginia Rounding
Board of Governors of The City Academy Hackney

Alderman William Russell
Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls
Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama
Board of Governors of Knightsbridge Schools International
Board of Governors Knightsbridge School
Court of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers
Trustee of Place2Be

Helen Sanson
Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership

Ian Seaton
Board of Governors City of London Freeman's School
Board of Governors City of London School
Board of Governors City of London School for Girls
Board of Governors Bridewell Royal Hospital
Donation Governor Christ's Hospital

3. **PUBLIC MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2015 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Sir John Cass School Expansion

In response to a question from a member, the Director of Community and Children's Services noted that the issue at stake was the lack of transparency

around the Sir John Cass Foundation's decision to veto the school expansion given their close, positive engagement in the project over a period of years.

3.1 **Outstanding Actions**

Members reviewed the outstanding actions and made the following comments.

- Contingency planning for Sir John Cass expansion should be incorporated as an action.
- Special Interest Areas should be mapped out and established as soon as possible outside the meeting
- The timings of meeting should be brought forward to 3.00pm with immediate effect.
- The current outstanding actions should refer to a 'bank' of potential school governors.
- The Town Clerk noted that the Education Board handbook would be submitted to the September meeting.

4. **ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CITY ACADEMIES**

The Board agreed to vary the order of business so that the item regarding Governance of City Academies was considered after the item on the Education Strategy Refresh.

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding additional funding for the City Academies. A member suggested that, in principle, additional funding should not be used to fund academy running costs, such as the capital purchase of IT equipment, though other members suggested caution and considered that each application should be considered on its merits. Another member noted that governing bodies should be made aware of applications before submission to the Education Board.

RESOLVED, that Members

- note the evaluation reports for the projects carried out in academic year 2014/2015,
- endorse the proposal to allocate £150,000 to COLAI on the condition that COLAI submits a revised breakdown to the Education Unit detailing how the allocation will be spent,
- endorse the proposal to allocate £150,000 to COLAS to support the projects outlined in the application,
- endorse the proposal to allocate £150,000 to TCAH to support the projects outlined in the application, and
- endorse the proposal to allocate £50,000 to Redriff Primary School to support the projects outlined in the application.

5. **EDUCATION STRATEGY REFRESH**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk inviting them to comment on a further iteration of the Education Strategy from 2016. The following comments were made.

- There should be greater clarity how many new academies the City of London Corporation should consider sponsoring, over what timeframe and in what location.
- The vision could be more definitive and linked with the City Corporation's wider strategic aims.
- The current strategy provided too much detail and could be pared down to ensuring scrutiny, support and synergy across the City Corporation's education portfolio. Some of the introductory explanation was no longer necessary.
- It was important however to build on the current strategy rather than start from scratch, which would risk losing the ground gained so far.
- There was discussion whether current strands one and two should be combined, as there was considerable overlap.
- Key priorities for 2016 should be clearly set out.
- The refreshed strategy should incorporate greater focus on 'soft skills'.
- The strategy should reflect the Board's dual oversight of the City Academies and the wider City Corporation's education 'offer'.
- Post-18 education should feature in the strategy and reference made to any universities, further and adult education with which the City was involved (e.g. the Guildhall School; City University).
- The Board should examine and evaluate what each of the City Schools was delivering.
- The strategy should reflect the Board's role as an oversight body with a remit to challenge existing policy and provide fresh ideas for executive decision-making committees and boards.
- The strategy should continue to reference the potential of partnership with the Livery in this area.
- Work-based learning should be embedded within the strategy.

RECEIVED

Deputy John Bennett and Roy Blackwell left at this point of the meeting.

6. **GOVERNANCE OF THE CITY ACADEMIES**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on the governance of the City Academies. The Chairman noted that, given the accountability of the City Corporation for the levels of performance in the City's academies, it was important to consider establishing a strategic governance model of the academies that afforded the Board greater control. Members noted that an overarching Multi-academy Trust (MAT) model seemed to be the best solution in the longer term, but that any model adopted would need to take account of the City Corporation's co-sponsors.

Members then resolved to exclude the public to discuss this item in the non-public section.

RECEIVED

7. **APPLICATION FROM CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON TO JOIN THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON FEDERATION**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding the application by City University London to join the University of London Federation.

RECEIVED

8. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

There were no questions.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

Delegated Authority – City of London Primary Academies Southwark & Islington

The Board considered two tabled requests for delegated authority regarding the academy projects for the City of London Primary Academy Southwark and City of London Primary Academy Islington.

RESOLVED, that Members in relation to the City of London Primary Academy Southwark,

- Note progress made to date with respect of discussions with DfE / EFA and the results of the design team procurement.
- Delegate approval of the Gateway 4C report to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of the Projects Sub- Committee (Gateway Project Procedure) and Education Board (academy element).

In relation to the City of London Primary Academy Islington,

- Note progress made to date with respect of discussion with DfE / EFA and the results of the design team procurement.
- Delegate approval of the Gateway 4C report to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Projects Sub-Committee (Gateway Project Procedure), Community and Children's Services Committee (housing element) and Education Board (academy element).

10. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as

defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act as follows:-

Items 11-13 Paragraph(s) 3

11. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2015 were approved as a correct record.

12. NON PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

Governance of the City Academies

Further to the public item on governance of City Academies, Members were briefed on the potential for a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) model to govern each of the City Academies in light of two of the academies being jointly sponsored with another party.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School Expansion

The Director of Community and Children's Services briefed members on the current situation around the Sir John Cass Primary School expansion.

The meeting ended at 5.53 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Alistair MacLellan
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Education Board – Outstanding Actions
15 October 2015

Item	Date	Action	Officer responsible	To be completed/ progressed to next stage	Progress Update
	23 July 2015	Education Board Handbook Board handbook to be tabled at October meeting.	Town Clerk	October 2015	Completed.
	23 July 2015	Timing of Board Meetings Future Board meetings to commence at 3.00pm.	Town Clerk	October 2015	Completed.
	23 July 2015	Special Interest Areas Special Interest Areas to be drawn up and established outside of the meeting.	Town Clerk	October 2015	Completed. Report submitted to October 2015 Board meeting.
	23 July 2015	Sir John Cass Expansion Contingency planning for Sir John Cass expansion to be drawn up.	Director of Community and Children's Services	October 2015	In progress. Update at October 2015 Board meeting.
	25 June 2015	Prioritisation of Academy Expansion Policy Interim prioritisation of academy expansion policy to be incorporated into Education Strategy refresh and submitted to Policy and Resources	Director of Community and Children's Services	September 2015	In progress. Update at October 2015 Board meeting.

Item	Date	Action	Officer responsible	To be completed/ progressed to next stage	Progress Update
		Committee for approval.			
	25 June 2015	Sir John Cass Primary School Expansion Resolution to be made to Community and Children's Services Committee regarding Board's concerns over decision of Sir John Cass Foundation to refuse primary school expansion.	Director of Community and Children's Services	July 2015	Completed. Resolution submitted to Community and Children's Services Committee's July 2015 meeting.
	25 June 2015	City of London Trust and Governance Structure for Academies Governance structure for City Academies to be rationalised.	Director of Community and Children's Services	July 2015	Completed. Report submitted to October Education Board.
	25 June 2015	King Edward Witley and Christ's Hospital Funding Clarification to be sought of source of funding for KESW and CH before existing sources are allocated elsewhere.	Town Clerk	October 2015	In progress. Town Clerk liaising with Chamberlain to clarify source of funding.
	25 June 2015	Review of the Combined Education Charity and City Educational Trust Fund.	Town Clerk	July 2015	In progress. The Community and Children's Services Committee agreed the

Item	Date	Action	Officer responsible	To be completed/ progressed to next stage	Progress Update
		Resolution to be made to the Community and Children's Services Committee welcoming a review of the CEC and CETF.			Board's resolution at its July meeting.
	25 June 2015	Learning and Engagement Forum Visitor Figures Headline visitor figures to LEF member organisations to be circulated from time to time at future meetings.	Town Clerk	September 2015	In progress. Town Clerk liaising with LEF to establish appropriate reporting cycle.
	25 June 2015	National Apprenticeships Service Update of follow-on work from NAS Mansion House event.	Director of Community and Children's Services	July 2015	In progress. Update at July meeting.
	23 April 2015	Education Strategy Refresh: Employability Education Strategy 2016 to clarify the Education Board's role in overseeing employability activity: its potential emphasis on fostering employability in schools; improving soft skills from an early age; and ensuring the City Corporation's overall employability offer did not include duplication of effort.	Town Clerk/Education Policy Officer	September 2015	In progress. Comments will be factored into Education Strategy refresh from 2016.

Item	Date	Action	Officer responsible	To be completed/ progressed to next stage	Progress Update
	23 April 2015	<p>Education Strategy Refresh: Governors in City Schools Education Strategy 2016 to include potential for developing a bank external governors; greater emphasis on the City's vision for education; an explicit skills-based approach to governor selection; reformed governance of City Academies; potential for cross-fertilisation of governors between independent schools and academies.</p>	Town Clerk/Education Policy Officer	September 2015	<p>In progress. Comments will be factored into Education Strategy refresh from 2016.</p>
	23 April 2015	<p>Education Strategy Development Plan Future reports (April and September each year) to include prioritisation of activities to assist the Board in exercising oversight.</p>	Education Policy Officer	September 2015	<p>In progress. Prioritisation to be included in future iterations from September 2015.</p>

Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board	15 October 2015
Subject: Education Strategy Update Report	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information

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) A Governor Training Programme has been developed for the new academic year (Appendix 1). Training will be made available to all Members who are governors.

- b) Roland Martin has taken up his position as the 10th Headmaster of City of London Freemen's School. Mr Martin was previously Headmaster at Rendcomb College in Gloucestershire, and a Housemaster and English teacher at Eton College, where he spent thirteen years.
- c) The Chairman of Policy has agreed to host a dinner for prefects from the City family of schools on 12 November 2015.
- d) The City Corporation will host a Careers Fair for students at the City family of schools on 19 April 2016.

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

- a) Overall the City family of schools received excellent exam results this summer (a full report and analysis will be presented to the Education Board at its meeting on 15 October).
- b) At the October meeting of the Headteachers' Forum the Education Strategy Director will lead a discussion on 2015 results and targets for 2016.

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

The board will recall that it has approved funding for the Learning and Engagement forum to progress three strands of activity. A progress report on each strand is provided below:

- a) School Visits Fund – The Museum of London is managing the scheme and has appointed a part-time coordinator to administer the fund. A fund website is currently under development and a promotional postcard has been designed which will be mailed to all eligible schools (those with at least 30% of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium) in mid-October 2015. 19 City funded cultural venues are included in the scheme and schools will be able to apply for up to £300 to help cover the cost of visiting their chosen venue (provided they have not visited in the previous 3 years). For example, the fund can be used to help with the cost of coach hire, supply teachers, or session fees at the venues.
- b) “Hard Education” – Coda Consultants were commissioned to carry out research with secondary teachers and young people across London to identify the issues of most concern, and the best ways in which the City Corporation's cultural venues can support schools. Over 60 schools (representing every London borough) were consulted and 5 focus groups with young people were in out-of-school settings. The research was carried out throughout July and found a high demand for the kind of programme offered by the City Corporation, with 100% of teachers saying that they would be interested in workshops, performances, teacher training and online resources. Key issues identified include homophobia, sexism and substance abuse.

- c) Great Fire of London website – A specialist website research and development company, Webcredible, were commissioned to consult potential users of a new website and to make recommendations. Three focus groups were held, with general interest adults, specialists and teachers during July. Webcredible’s report concluded that there is a high level of interest in the subject, especially from teachers, and they recommended producing a site that draws on a selection of the fire-related collections in the City, in particular at the Museum of London and London Metropolitan Archives, to meet the needs and expectations of both general interest adults and schools. Their indicative costings suggest that this would cost at least £100,000 to produce.
6. Strategic Objective 4: To promote an effective transition from education to employment
- a) 103 placements have been undertaken by young people from the City’s neighbouring boroughs with 22 City businesses as part of the 2015 City Business Traineeship scheme.
 - b) Following the June apprenticeships roundtable at Mansion House for City (i.e. financial and professional services) businesses, discussions are underway with the National Apprenticeships Service to develop a programme of sector-focused events to raise awareness and increase take-up of apprenticeships in the City more widely.
 - c) Built Environment hosted a ‘Women in Engineering’ workshop for 40 female students from City of London Academy, Southwark. The session aimed to address male-dominance of STEM careers. 52% of participants said they would now consider a career in engineering, compared to less than 7% before the workshop.
 - d) 20 work experience students from all three of the City Corporation’s secondary academies were hosted across the City Corporation. 100% of students said they undertook meaningful work and 100% of hosts agreed that their student had developed skills that employers value.
7. Strategic Objective 5: To explore opportunities to expand the City’s education portfolio and influence on education throughout London
- a) Members will receive a specific update on the free school programme at the October meeting of the Education Board.

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.

Joshua Burton

Policy Officer

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Proposed Governor Training Programme

Training	Target Group	Key Topics	Calendar Point	Typical format	Venue	Lead
Governor Statutory Update, Breakfast Briefing	Existing Governors	Education Strategy. New legal and statutory responsibilities. Accountability measures updates. Interpreting results. OFSTED/ISI updates.	October	90 minutes Breakfast briefing	CoL	ESD
New Governor Induction	New Governors	Statutory governor responsibilities. CoL governor responsibilities. Key functions – Strategic leadership, accountability measures, disciplinary panels, subject links, OFSTED/ISI.	Termly TBC	90 minutes Breakfast/lunch meetings	CoL	ESD
Safeguarding	Lead Governors and others	Context. Statutory responsibilities. Systems. Record keeping. Single Central Register.	Annual September and as requested	90 minutes	CoL or schools	
Prevent	Lead Governors and others	Context. Statutory responsibilities. WRAP training.	October/ November 15	90 minutes	CoL or schools	
Accountability and data training	CoG and others	Examination results – national context. Progress indicators and changes. Result interpretation including RAISE. Reading national performance tables. New KS2 and GCSE grading.	January	60 minutes	CoL or schools	ESD

Student disciplinary panel and exclusion training	All governors who sit on panels	Context and legislation. Evidence. Conduct of meeting. Powers and communicating decisions.	As requested	60 minutes	CoL or schools	
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Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board	15 October 2015
Subject: Education Strategy Refresh	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision

Summary

On 24 October 2013 the Court of Common Council endorsed the City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013–2015 and on 1 May 2014 it approved the establishment of an Education Board to oversee the implementation of the Education Strategy. At its meeting in July 2015, Members of the Education Board considered proposals for a further iteration of the Education Strategy from 2016.

This report outlines the framework for the next iteration of the Education Strategy, which would contain a high level executive summary, a chapter for each Strategic Objective, and priorities for 2016. A draft Executive Summary for the next iteration of the Education Strategy is attached as Appendix 1. The Chapters for each Strategic Objective are being developed and the Education Board will consider a full draft at its meeting in December.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to endorse the proposed structure for the next iteration of the Education Strategy and the process for developing a full draft.

Main Report

Background

1. On 24 October 2013 the Court of Common Council endorsed the City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013–2015 and on 1 May 2014 it approved the establishment of an Education Board to oversee the implementation of the Education Strategy.
2. At its meeting in July 2015, Members of the Education Board considered a report of the Town Clerk outlining proposals for a further iteration of the Education Strategy from 2016.

Current Position

3. Officers have developed a framework for the next iteration of the Education Strategy which is designed to reflect the comments of Members at the July meeting of the Education Board and also relevant comments made at previous Education Board meetings.

Proposal

4. It is proposed that the next iteration of the Education Strategy contains a concise high level executive summary and outlines the vision, strategic objectives, and prioritised actions. This would be followed by a chapter for each Strategic Objective which would provide additional detail on: context, prioritised actions, and success criteria. Each chapter would be around two pages in length. Finally priorities for 2016 would be identified.
5. For the next iteration of the Education Strategy is recommended that as the original Strategic Objectives 1 and 2 both relate to education in schools and higher education, they should be combined under a single objective. It is also recommended that, where it is relevant, the original Strategic Objective 5 should be embedded within the new Strategic Objectives, rather than being an objective in its own right.
6. A draft Executive Summary for the next iteration of the Education Strategy has been developed which contains a rephrased vision and three Strategic Objectives. This is attached as Appendix 1.
7. The Learning and Engagement Forum and the Employability Forum have both been consulted on the proposals for the next iteration of the Education Strategy and support the proposals made to date. Both Fora will also oversee the development of the chapter for the Strategic Objective which relates to their area of work.
8. The Chapters for each Strategic Objective are currently being developed and there will be an opportunity for Members who have expressed an interest in a Special Interest Area to comment on the relevant Chapter before the next meeting of the Education Board. The Education Board will consider a full draft of the next iteration of the Education Strategy at its meeting in December.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. The Education Strategy incorporates policies that relate to the work of a number of different Committees and Fora. Therefore, the refreshed Strategy will be brought to the attention of the relevant Committees.

Conclusion

10. This report outlines the framework for the next iteration of the Education Strategy. The proposed framework includes a high level executive summary, a chapter for each Strategic Objective, and priorities for 2016. The Chapters for each Strategic Objective are being developed and the Education Board will consider a full draft at its meeting in December. Members are asked to endorse the proposed structure for the next iteration of the Education Strategy and the process for developing a full draft.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Education Strategy 2016 – Executive Summary

Mark Emmerson

Education Strategy Director

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Education Strategy 2016 – Executive Summary

Vision

The City of London Corporation (City Corporation) is committed to providing access to ‘world class’ education and learning opportunities. It will maximise the educational opportunities that the cultural, heritage and environmental assets offer to City residents, its schools, and residents throughout London.

The City Corporation will ensure that every child resident in the City has access to high quality education, enabling them to reach their full academic and personal potential. Furthermore the City Corporation’s schools will provide outstanding education that enriches and inspires students. It will also be responsive to and influence the changing education landscape, welcoming appropriate opportunities to expand its education portfolio and extend educational opportunities

Strategic Objectives

1. Ensuring that the City Corporation’s world leading cultural and historical resources enrich the creative experience of all London’s learners.
2. Ensure that all education providers are deemed ‘outstanding’ within 3 years and there is continued development of excellent further, adult and higher education opportunities. Any new school, academy or other providers are expected to be ‘outstanding’ within 3 years of joining the City Corporation’s education portfolio.
3. Develop excellent work experience opportunities and pathways.

Objective 1 - Ensuring that the City Corporation’s world leading cultural and historical resources enrich the creative experience of all London’s learners.

Prioritised Action

- 1.
- 2.
3. ...

Objective 2 - Ensure that all education providers are deemed ‘outstanding’ within 3 years and there is continued development of excellent further, adult and higher education opportunities. Any new school, academy or other providers are expected to be ‘outstanding’ within 3 years of joining the City Corporation’s education portfolio.

Prioritised Action

- 1.
- 2.
3. ...

Objective 3 - Develop excellent work experience opportunities and pathways

Prioritised Action

- 1.
- 2.
3. ...

Priorities for 2016

(To be drawn from Action points in each strand and form an overarching action plan with milestones and broad performance indicators).

Obj 1	Actions	Success Criteria	Progress
Obj 2	Actions	Success Criteria	Progress
Obj 3	Actions	Success Criteria	Progress

Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board	15 October 2015
Subject: City Schools: Prioritisation for Academy Expansion – update	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Decision

Summary

At its May meeting, the Education Board adopted a proposed prioritisation process for the City of London Corporation to assess requests to act as an academy sponsor as an interim measure pending the expected review of strategic priorities for the ensuing year. The proposal included the recommendation that a due diligence report should be developed to help Members assess the viability of the proposal.

The Education Strategy Director has developed a due diligence report (Appendix 1) that is designed to enable Members to assess the viability of future proposals.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to: endorse the proposed due diligence report to assess the viability of requests to act as an academy sponsor.

Main Report

Background

1. At its meeting on 21 May 2015, the Education Board adopted a prioritisation process for the City of London Corporation to us in order to assess requests to act as an academy sponsor. This was adopted as an interim measure pending the expected review of strategic priorities for the ensuing year.
2. The proposal included the recommendation that a due diligence report should be developed to help Members assess the viability of proposals.

Current Position

3. The Education Strategy Director has developed a due diligence report (Appendix 1) that is designed to enable Members to assess the viability of future proposals.

Proposals

4. When the City Corporation is approached to support an additional school Officers will carry out a detailed due diligence process that will culminate in the production of a due diligence report for the Education Board to consider.
5. The proposed due diligence report will allow Officers to present their findings to the Education Board and enable Members to consider the viability of proposals. The report uses RAG ratings, and supporting evidence, to provide Members with an assessment of risk and viability in the following areas:
 - finance,
 - attainment,
 - views of parents and the local community,
 - current performance,
 - leadership and governance,
 - asset condition,
 - capacity, and
 - other risks, with mitigating factors.
6. Since the prioritisation process was approved, the City Corporation has had two tentative approaches to support schools. Officers are therefore following the agreed prioritisation process and, once due diligence work is complete, a full report will be presented to the Education Board for consideration by Members.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

7. Expanding the number of City academies would have strategic implications, such as the need for a Chief Executive Officer to oversee and expand the chain of City academies, additional central support services, increased demand for engagement with the City's educational offer, a need for additional governors, and additional funding allocations. Therefore, proposals endorsed by the Education Board will also be considered by Policy and Resources Committee and then, if required, the Court of Common Council.

Conclusion

8. If it is adopted, the proposed due diligence report will enable Members to assess the viability of future proposals.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – due diligence report

Background Papers

City Schools: Prioritisation for Academy Expansion

Mark Emmerson

Education Strategy Director

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Multi-Academy Trust Application Due Diligence Report



Appraiser: _____

Date: _____

Criteria	Risk			Evidence/Notes
	L	M	H	
Finance				
Attainment related issues				
Views of parents & local community				
Current performance assessment				
Leadership and Governance				
Asset condition				
Capacity and other risks, with mitigating factors				

Multi Academy Trust Application Due Diligence Report



Recommendation – considering the following criteria:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do we have an existing school in the locality (organic growth)?• Can the new school be part of a MAT?• Was CoL invited by another local authority? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are parents/staff in support?• Outcome of due diligence report (analysis).• Attainment levels. |
|--|--|

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Appraiser's signature: _____

Date: _____

Committee:	Date:
Education Board	15 October 2015
Subject: Updated Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision

Summary

This report provides the Education Board with an updated accountability framework that will enable the City of London Corporation to meet its responsibilities as an academy sponsor/co-sponsor, including ensuring its academies achieve year on year improvement in educational attainment and standards of teaching and learning.

The updated improvement and accountability framework will provide a mechanism for the early identification of any signs of underperformance in order to enable timely and effective intervention and action.

The proposed framework for clearer accountability, challenge, and support will be developed in partnership with the City Corporation's academies and their governing bodies, co-sponsors, and relevant local authority representatives, in order to establish a shared view of how to promote improvement, including arrangements for early identification and action to address any signs of underperformance.

The Education Unit will report to the Education Board on the performance of the City Corporation's academies in relation to attainment and progress measures annually, and on the progress towards improvement targets termly.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to endorse the updated Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework.

Main Report

Background

1. On 24 October 2013 the Court of Common Council endorsed the City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013–2015 and on 1 May 2014 it approved the establishment of an Education Board to oversee the implementation of the Education Strategy.
2. As an academy sponsor the City Corporation is accountable to the Department for Education (DfE) for the performance of its sponsored/co-sponsored

academies. The City Corporation is accountable in its role as an academy sponsor through the Court of Common Council, which delegates this responsibility to the Education Board.

Proposal

Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework

3. The Education Strategy includes a commitment to establish an improvement and accountability framework to support the City Corporation's academies to achieve year on year improvement in educational attainment and standards of teaching and learning.
4. The improvement and accountability framework will also be a mechanism for the early identification of any signs of underperformance to enable timely and effective intervention and action. The framework needs to be proportionate, reasonable and appropriate to ensure that the City Corporation is able to support and challenge its academies appropriately, and flexible enough to include any additional academies that the City Corporation may choose to support.
5. The framework for clearer accountability, challenge, and support will be developed in partnership with the City Corporation's academies and their governing bodies, co-sponsors, and relevant local authority representatives, in order to establish a shared view of how to promote improvement, including arrangements for early identification and action to address signs of underperformance.
6. The Education Unit will report to the Education Board on the performance of the City Corporation's academies in relation to attainment and progress measures annually, and on the progress towards improvement targets termly.
7. Analysis of the public examinations at GCSE and A level shall take place annually and a report will be provided to the Education Board for its October meeting. This information will be collated both from data provided by the City Corporation's academies and also published data. The report will show the three year trends.
8. Discussions will take place with each of the City Corporation's academies, individually, about their data. Principals and Chairmen of Governors will be invited to a scrutiny panel meeting to present their results, action plans, and forward targets for their academy.
9. A further report will be produced in the Spring Term following publication of the validated results as shown in Raise on Line and the Data Dashboard, by the Department of Education. This data will give a detailed comparison against other schools, both locally and nationally, on a number of measures. In addition, the

City Corporation's academies will be asked to provide their predicted grades so that they can be considered by the Education Board at its December meeting.

10. The Education Unit will gather the information from the City Corporation's academies under the current Ofsted Framework headings.
11. The Inspection Framework sets out clearly the standards to be attained and each school should have its own self-evaluation against these standards. The Education Unit will require Principals to provide a copy of their current analysis.
12. It is expected that each City Corporation academy has well-established arrangements for external challenge and support from local authority or other school improvement providers, and there is no intention to change arrangements that are working well. The City Corporation's academies will be asked to outline their arrangements and agree how the outcomes of challenge and support activity will be reported as part of the accountability framework. The Education Unit will receive copies of reports on the standards observed at the City Corporation's academies by any external agencies. If a City Corporation academy has no external moderation of standards in place the Education Unit will require them to commission a 'health check mini inspection'.
13. Visits will be made termly to each of the City Corporation's academies by the Education Strategy Director to discuss the standards and improvement strategies in place to ensure that all are progressing towards the 'Outstanding' quality mark.
14. In addition the Education Unit will collect information on the following areas:
 - curriculum development,
 - summary of the term's activities,
 - work experience and links with business,
 - enrichment opportunities,
 - use of the City Corporation's open spaces and cultural institutions, and
 - participation in City schools' activities and events.
15. Termly reports to governing bodies usually include these aspects. In order to reduce the administrative burden, a copy of the report each Principal submits to their Governing Body should be sent to the Education Unit. This will limit requests for information and this information will then be collated, with a summary reported to the Education Board.
16. Reports will be collected towards the end of each term and the first report will be produced for the January meeting of the Education Board and updated termly thereafter.

Annual Timeline

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Test/ Exam report to E.B.	Principal and Chair of Governors present exam analysis and action plan	Outcome targets for year to E.B.	Principal's report to G.B. to E.U.	Final results predictions	Principal's report to G.B. to E.U.
Risks/ mitigating action	Exam Scrutiny panel	Risks/ mitigating action	E.S.D. visit & report	Risks/ mitigating action	E.S.D. visit & report

Conclusion

17. This report provides the Education Board with an updated accountability framework to support the City Corporation's academies to achieve year on year improvement in educational attainment and standards of teaching and learning, and ensure that the City Corporation meets its responsibility as an academy sponsor/co-sponsor.
18. The Education Unit will report to the Education Board on the performance of the City Corporation's academies in relation to attainment and progress measures annually, and on the progress towards improvement targets termly.
19. It is recommended that Members endorse the updated Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework.

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Committee(s) Education Board	Dated: 15 October 2015
Subject: Request for Delegated Authority – Appointment of Academy Governor (City of London Academy Islington)	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision

Summary

A vacancy has arisen among the City-appointed governors at the City of London Academy Islington. The vacancy is currently being advertised to the Court of Common Council and, given the Education Board does not next meet until December 2015, members are asked to grant the Town Clerk, under Standing Order 41, delegated authority to consider applications received and, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, appoint the successful candidate to the vacancy.

Recommendation(s)

- Grant the Town Clerk delegated authority under Standing Order 41, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to consider applications received and appoint to the vacancy on the board of governors of the City of London Academy Islington.

Main Report

Background

1. Alderman The Lord Mountevans has advised that he wishes to step down as City-appointed governor of the City of London Academy Islington in anticipation of serving his term as Lord Mayor of London during 2015/16.
2. The Town Clerk is therefore conducting the appointment procedure agreed by the Education Board and the Court of Common Council. This procedure is outlined in the attached appendix.

Request for Delegated Authority

3. The appointment process will not have been concluded in time for the Education Board to consider completed applications at its meeting in October 2015. Given that the Board does not next meet until December 2015, members are requested to grant delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to appoint a Common Councilman as academy governor at the City of London Academy Islington in the room of Alderman The Lord Mountevans. This will ensure the vacancy is appointed to in good time, thus avoiding any break in representation by City-appointed governors.

Alistair MacLellan

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Appendix – City of London Corporation Academy Governor Appointment Process

1. The academy informs the City of a vacancy and provides a person specification (including preferred skills-set), information about the academy, the constitution of the Governing Body and the time commitment that is required.



2. The vacancy is sent to all Members of the Court of Common Council.



3. The City consults with the lead City Member.



4. The Education Board takes a decision.

Committee(s) Education Board	Dated: 15 October 2015
Subject: Special Interest Areas 2015/16	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision

Summary

In May 2015 the Education Board agreed to adopt a Special Interest Area scheme to promote increased member involvement and liaison in the delivery of the City of London Corporation's Education Strategy. This report therefore provides a proposed schedule of special interest areas designed to promote member liaison in both the City of London Corporation's education portfolio and its Education Strategy 2016.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to,

- Review the proposed schedule of special interest areas
- Appoint lead member(s) to each special interest area.

Main Report

Background

1. The Education Board agreed to adopt a Special Interest Area (SIA) scheme at its May 2015 meeting. Adoption of the scheme was subsequently deferred so that SIA areas would better reflect the strategic and operational objectives of the forthcoming Education Strategy 2016.

Education Strategy 2016

2. Members are considering the executive summary of the proposed Education Strategy 2016 elsewhere on this agenda. It is proposed that the refreshed strategy be streamlined, with the first two objectives of the 2013-15 strategy relating to education in schools and to higher education being combined, and the fifth objective (education expansion and influence on education) embedded within other objectives. In summary, the strategy will be refined down to three broad objectives with associated actions and indicators of success.

Special Interest Area Scheme

3. The streamlined education strategy will incorporate a number of key actions for each objective. Given the broad nature of the strategy's objectives, a schedule of SIAs has been drawn up that seeks to both capture areas of strategic significance in which members may wish to be involved across the City's wider education portfolio as well as key objectives within the Education Strategy 2016.

Conclusion

4. The Education Board has agreed to adopt a special interest area scheme and a proposed schedule is appended for consideration and approval.

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Appendix - Education Board Special Interest Area Schedule 2015/16

Education Board Special Interest Area Schedule 2015/16

Lead member(s) for each special interest area (SIA) will be appointed annually by the Education Board at its first meeting. Each SIA will have a nominated lead officer with whom the lead member will remain in regular contact. Lead officers will keep lead members abreast of developments or issues that arise throughout the year. Lead members are expected to keep a “watching brief” on the work that takes place within their area, questioning and following up on issues where necessary. Members are not expected to assume a management role, but instead enhance the role the Education Board as a whole can play in delivering the Education Strategy. Finally, lead members are encouraged to bring matters arising to the Board for consideration.

In liaising with lead officers, the lead member will keep the Education Board clerk informed, to encourage continuity across the SIA portfolio. The SIAs are as follows.

SIA 1 – Academy Governance

Lead Officer: Education Strategy Director

The City of London Corporation is accountable for the performance of its sponsored/co-sponsored academies and for establishing clear governance and accountability structures. Lead Member(s) will liaise with officers to ensure the City Corporation is exercising appropriate governance over the City academies, including the proposed adoption of an overarching Multi Academy Trust, and assist where appropriate with relationship management with academy co-sponsors and academy boards, though this will be primarily the responsibility of the lead member for each relevant academy and the Chairman/Deputy Chairman of the Education Board.

SIA 2 – Attainment and Performance

Lead Officer: Education Strategy Director

The City of London Corporation is responsible for three secondary academies and three independent schools which have undertaken national examinations in 2015. The City of London Corporation is held accountable for the progressive and sustainable performance of the three academies of which it is a sponsor. Lead Member(s) will liaise with officers in relation to analysis, scrutiny and action relating to attainment across the City Family of Schools and the City academies in particular.

SIA 3 – City Family of Schools

Lead Officer: Education Policy Officer

A Chairmen of Governors’ Forum and Headteachers’ Forum have been established to facilitate collaboration in areas of best practice across the City Family of Schools, mainly through the development of partnership activities including subject workshops; Director of Sixth Form meetings; careers advice and governor training. Lead Member(s) will liaise with officers to support the development of existing

collaboration developed during 2014/15 and the development of proposals outlined to the Education Board in June 2015.

SIA 4 – Strategic Finance

Lead Officer: Head of Finance

The Education Board first considered an overview of the City Corporation's annual spend on education activity in January 2015, and considers annual budget allocations on spending from the Education Board budget. Lead Member(s) will monitor strategic spend across the education portfolio.

SIA 5 – Local Education Authority Duty

Lead Officer: Education and Early Years Manager

The City has a number of local authority statutory duties regarding education such as championing pupil and parent choice, securing a wide range of education options for parents and families, ensuring there are sufficient high-quality school places, coordinating fair admissions including for SEND, and promoting social justice by supporting vulnerable children. These statutory duties are properly the responsibility of the Community and Children's Services Committee, and therefore lead member(s) will be responsible for liaising with that committee on emerging trends and issues.

SIA 6 – Cultural Engagement and Outreach

Lead Officer: Education Policy Officer

The Learning & Engagement Forum (LEF) has been convened to coordinate and develop cultural outreach activities undertaken by cultural venues associated with the City of London. This work supports the objective of the education strategy that seeks to ensure that the City's world leading cultural and historical resources benefit all of London's learners. The Lead Member(s) will liaise with the Education Policy Officer on matters relating the LEF.

SIA 7 – Work-Related Learning

Lead Officer: Partnerships Manager (EDO)

The City Corporation recognises that providing opportunities for young people to have first-hand experiences with employers, in the City and elsewhere, from an early age, will help develop awareness of career pathways and future job prospects as well as helping them to acquire the soft skills and attributes necessary to succeed. The City Corporation supports a range of work-related learning activities and work interactions which are available to schools across its neighbouring boroughs and also open to the City's family of schools. Lead member(s) will liaise with the Employability Forum where appropriate.

SIA 8 – Careers Advice

Lead Officer: Partnerships Manager (EDO); Education Policy Officer

The Education Strategy 2016 recognises that young people deserve to have access to quality and reliable careers advice and information to ensure that their future working lives are not determined by chance and personal circumstances. Lead member(s) will liaise with officers on this element of the strategy, namely careers policies in the City academies, lead governors, and active participation by the City Corporation on the London Ambitions Career Offer, and liaising with the Employability Forum where appropriate.

SIA 9 – Livery

Lead Officer: Assistant Town Clerk

The Livery makes an important and diverse contribution to education. Lead member(s) will be responsible for liaising with the Livery Committee, Livery Schools Link and the Livery Education and Training Office (LETO) to promote collaboration and best practice between the Livery and the City of London Corporation.

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Committee(s):		Date(s):
Community and Children’s Services	9 October 2015	
Education Board	15 October 2015	
Subject:	Education and Adoption Bill	Public
Report of:	Remembrancer	For Information
<p>Summary</p> <p>This report summarises those measures in the Bill which may be of interest to your Committee. The Bill would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require the conversion of certain schools into Academies • expand the Government’s powers of intervention in schools • allow joint arrangements to be made for carrying out local authority adoption functions in England. 		

Main Report

Background

1. In their election manifesto, the Conservatives set out a range of policies intended to speed up the conversion of ‘failing’ schools into academies. The manifesto introduced a new concept of a ‘coasting school’ though the phrase was not defined. A new wave of free schools was forecast.
2. Some manifesto policies did not make it into the Bill – no restrictions are placed on ‘satellite campuses’ opened in London by universities located elsewhere in the UK and no changes are proposed to skills funding arrangements in London.

Schools and Academies

3. In a much-trailed move, the Bill contains measures intended to simplify the process of conversion from school to academy. Under the Bill, conversion can occur in one of two ways. First, a school’s governing

body may apply to convert. Second, by virtue of a duty on the Secretary of State to make an 'academy order' in relation to every school judged 'inadequate' by Ofsted. Inadequate is the lowest grade Ofsted may give to a school.

4. The Bill proposes changes to the Education and Inspections Act 2006 so that schools classified as 'coasting' would be eligible for intervention by the local authority; intervention would not be mandatory and a school defined as coasting would not automatically be converted into an academy. The Bill does not define 'coasting' but rather includes a power enabling the Secretary of State to define in regulations what 'coasting' means. The Government has indicated, however, that coasting will be judged over a three year period and determined on whether fewer than 85% of its pupils achieving the 'expected standard' across reading, writing and maths. The 'expected standard' will be set each year once the results for that year are available.
5. Currently local authorities have a power to issue a poorly performing school with a warning notice regarding that school's performance. The Bill proposes that this power be extended to the Secretary of State. If brought into force, a school subject to a warning notice would be subject to a local authority or Secretary of State intervention. Such an intervention might include the appointment of additional governors and taking over control of a school's delegated budget. The power to intervene will commence at the date stated in the notice of intervention. This is a change from current practice where a school has 15 working days from the date of the notice until intervention. In the future, any notice given by the Secretary of State will supersede any local authority notice. As a result of these changes, the Secretary of State's existing power to direct a local authority to give a performance warning notice is repealed.
6. In what would be a further extension of power for the Secretary of State, the Bill proposes that she may give to a governing body of a maintained school a notice requiring it to take specified action to secure improvement of the school's performance and facilitate its conversion to an academy. This power may be exercised only in relation to a maintained school that is eligible for intervention. This replicates local authorities' current power to give such a notice.
7. The Bill proposes a wholly new power for the Secretary of State to require, in cases where a school is eligible for intervention, a school to cooperate or join with another party (for example, the governing body of

another school). A school may be obliged to collaborate with another maintained school or further education body, or to join an existing federation of maintained schools. The Bill requires the Secretary of State to consult prior to exercising this power. The consultees are the governing body of the school, the diocesan authority in the case of a foundation or voluntary school which is a Church of England school or a Roman Catholic Church school, and in the case of any other foundation or voluntary school, those who appoint the governors.

8. Authorities must notify the Secretary of State before they exercise their powers in any of the following ways: requiring a governing body to enter into arrangements with other schools; appointing additional governors; removing a school's delegated budget. The Secretary of State is required to notify the local authority that he intends to require a governing body to enter into arrangements with another school, appoint additional governors or direct the closure of a school.

Adoption

9. The Bill builds on recent findings by the Association of Directors of Children's Services and the House of Lords committee on adoption legislation that collaboration between authorities can lead to greater numbers of adoptive parents and produces more successful matching of children and parents.
10. Currently each local authority is required to maintain an adoption service and may provide that service by collaborating with other local authorities or registered adoption societies. Only local authorities and registered adoption societies may make arrangements for adoption.
11. The Bill proposes a wide-ranging and flexible new power for the Secretary of State to issue directions in relation to the adoption functions of local authorities. The Bill does not set out any limit to the circumstances in which such directions may be made. Under the Bill, the Secretary of State may direct one or more local authorities to make arrangements for any or all of their adoption functions to be carried out on their behalf by one local authority or by an adoption agency. The Secretary of State can either name which adoption agency should carry out these functions, or instruct the relevant local authorities to determine who should carry out the functions. It is not apparent how big (or small) a geographical area the Government envisages such a collaboration would cover.

12. A local authority that receives such a direction would have considerable flexibility. An authority may, for example, decide to set up a new voluntary adoption agency to carry out adoption functions or make arrangements for one of the local authorities to act on behalf of the others named in the order, or with a different local authority or voluntary adoption agency.

Consultation

13. The Director of Community and Children's Services has been consulted in relation to the contents of this report.

Conclusion

14. The measures in relation to school performance will not affect The City's Sir John Cass Foundation primary school which was judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted in its last two inspections (2008 and 2013). Other proposals are noteworthy in light of the City's long-standing educational interests.

15. The proposals in relation to adoption will be relevant to the City's functions in that area. Coram, a specialist adoption agency, carry out adoption functions for the City and have done so since 1 June 2015.

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