

Committee(s): Education Board	Date(s): 23 July 2020
Subject: Report of Action Taken Between Meetings	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Kerry Nicholls and Polly Dunn, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk since the previous meeting of the Board, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order No. 41(a) and (b).

Recommendation(s)

The Board is asked to note the report.

Main Report

1. Since the last meeting of the Board, approval was given for one decision to be made under the urgency procedures, Standing Order No. 41:

Urgent Authority – Education Board: Guildhall School of Music and Drama Scholarships 2020/21 [2 June 2020]

1. In consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Education Board, the Town Clerk approved funding of £30k to Guildhall School of Music and Drama for the 2020/21 financial year from the Finance Committee City Cash budget set aside for this purpose, in accordance with amended scholarship criteria promoting scholarships to students under 18 years of age in the Junior Guildhall School Programme, as set out in Paragraph 8 of the GSMD report.
2. Urgent authority was used as the next formal meeting of the Education Board was not scheduled to take place until 23 July 2020, therefore the ratification of the Board's support was being sought under urgency procedures in order to avoid any further delay to the annual payment of scholarship funds to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama for the 2020/21 financial year.

Urgent Authority – Education Board: City of London Academies Trust Funding Request for Summer Provision 2020/21 [10 July 2020]

3. The Education Endowment Foundation's projections indicate that during the COVID pandemic school closures will widen the attainment gap between disadvantaged children and their peers by up to 36%. City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT) reports that in its academies, up to 40% of pupils have not engaged in online learning during school closures and some pupils have showed significant declines in their quality of work.

4. CoLAT proposed a 10-day catch-up programme delivered over August 2020 to address learning gaps in English and Maths and other subject areas at a cost of approximately £70k. The provision will be for pupils in Years 6 and 10 in preparation for the transition to secondary school and GCSEs respectively.
5. It was proposed that the cost be met from the COVID-19 Contingency Fund and approval was sought from the Education Board for the instigation of the programme prior to progressing its funding.
6. The Chamberlain confirmed that the request was affordable within the current balance of the COVID-19 Contingency Fund, and the cost of the programme could not be met from within the Community and Children's Services local risk budget.
7. This request was considered under urgency procedures to provide schools the necessary time to engage pupils and promote the opportunity to them before the end of the summer term on 17 July 2020. Since the opportunity will be most beneficial to non-engaged pupils, adequate time was required to promote the opportunity to pupils, 'sell' its benefits, and prepare them for the experience.
8. The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, approved the creation of a 10-day catch-up programme delivered over August 2020 to address learning gaps resulting from the school closures during COVID-19.
9. It was noted that a grant payment of £70K from the COVID-19 Contingency Fund will be sought to deliver the programme.
10. CoLAT will submit an interim report on the Summer School in September 2020 for inclusion in the agenda of the 25 September 2020 Education Board meeting. CoLAT will also submit a full impact report on the Summer School in December 2020 in preparation for the January committee meetings of the Education Board and Policy & Resources Committee.
11. Permission to grant bids for monies from the COVID-19 Contingency Fund (of up to £100k) was delegated by the Policy & Resources Committee to the Town Clerk or the Head of the COVID-19 Gold Group. Therefore, on receipt of the approved urgency from the Education Board, the Head of Gold considered and approved the full funding bid.

Background Papers

- Background papers for Members are available from the report authors.

Kerry Nicholls

Committee and Member Services Officer

E: kerry.nicholls@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Polly Dunn

Senior Committee and Member Services Officer

E: polly.dunn@cityoflondon.gov.uk