

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Education Board	24/09/2020
<b>Subject:</b> Education Services Company Feasibility Study	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Anne Bamford, Strategic Education and Skills Director	

### Summary

This report updates Members on the results of an external investigation undertaken to explore the potential for an Education Services Company (ESC) to support the City of London's Family of Schools and additionally support and provide services to other schools across London and beyond. The study also explored other potential ways for the City Corporation to harness its educational, cultural and business assets and expertise to improve outcomes for learners. The report cover note and the full report produced by the Education Development Trust (EDT) and the ISOS Partnership are included in **Appendices 1 and 2**.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the summary report (**Appendix 1**) and full report (**Appendix 2**) produced by EDR and ISOS Partnership
- Endorse a further investigation of the four recommendations made in the report

### Main Report

#### Background, aims and processes

1. As a contribution to its Education, Skills and Cultural and Creative Learning Strategies for 2019-23, and to inform its broader vision, via Priority Investment Pot (PIP) funding, the City Corporation commissioned the Education Development Trust and the ISOS Partnership to carry out a feasibility study.
2. The purpose of the study was to explore the potential for an Education Services Company (ESC) to support the City's Family of Schools and additionally support and provide services to other schools across London and beyond.
3. The study also explored other potential ways for the City to harness its educational, cultural and business assets and expertise to improve outcomes for learners.
4. To gain a deeper understanding of possible foci of activities the City could undertake, the study tested the feasibility of a greater City role in the following areas:
  - Back-office support
  - School Improvement support
  - Added value and Innovation (i.e. – career learning, cultural learning and fusion skills)
5. These were examined across three potential beneficiary groups: The City of London Family of Schools; Livery Company supported schools; and schools across London, England and beyond.
6. The study commenced in October 2019 and was completed in May 2020. The reporting was delayed due to disruptions caused by Coronavirus.

7. The process included desk-based research, individual interviews, focus groups, and targeted market analysis.
8. The study examined potential around non-educational support (e.g. back office functions; school improvement services (e.g. governor training); career related learning (e.g. work experience broker); cultural learning (e.g. music provider); and fusion skills (e.g. fusion curriculum design).
9. The study also explored potential at different levels, including the Family of Schools, the broader Livery Schools Network and other national and international schools or school systems.
10. A matrix was used to categorise the likely impacts of various types and levels of service provision. The matrix applied a 'traffic light system' of low, medium and high across four categories, namely:
  - Financial return on investment
  - Educational return on investment
  - Demand
  - Connection to the City's assets, expertise and practices
11. Recommended areas were highly rated on most of not all four of the categories.

### **Key Findings and recommendations**

12. The final analysis suggests that:
  - a) The City should not invest resources in creating an Education Services Company.
  - b) The City's most immediate priority should be to consolidate the relationships and practices within its existing Family of Schools.
13. The report recommended that the City should:
  - a) Increase its efforts to foster back-office and school improvement-focussed collaborations between the CoLAT, its broader Family of Schools and the Livery Companies.
  - b) Pilot a CPD programme for teachers, drawing on all the City's assets to support schools' aspirations to improve curriculum design, cultural capital and fusion skills.
  - c) Play a national leadership role on fusion skills by building a long-term, system-changing collaboration between a larger number of schools and the City's cultural and business institutions.
  - d) Contribute to the City's ambitions to improve social mobility by working in a deep, sustained way with one or two areas of significant economic and educational challenge.
14. A copy of the Education Services Company: PIP funded Feasibility Study, Final Report is included in **Appendix 1**.

### **Appendices**

- **Appendix 1** – Summary Report – Education Development Trust and ISOS Partnership: Education Services Company Feasibility Study
- **Appendix 2** – Full Report – Education Development Trust and ISOS Partnership: Education Services Company Feasibility Study

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