

Committee(s)	Dated:
Policy and Resources Committee Education Board Finance Committee	21 January 2021 28 January 2021 16 February 2021
Subject: Tomlinson Review Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3, 8 and 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£n/a
What is the source of Funding?	n/a
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	n/a
Report of: The Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: Polly Dunn, Senior Committee and Member Services Officer	

Summary

This report seeks to update Members on the work undertaken by the City Grants Education Spending (CGES) Working Party in response to the review conducted by Sir Mike Tomlinson and invites Members to consider how the City ought to progress with these recommendations.

Recommendation(s)

Members of the **Policy & Resources Committee and Education Board** are invited to:

- Note the progress made to date by the Working Party and relevant Departments;
- Consider how remaining work on the recommendations is continued, be that with the oversight of a Working Party or otherwise; and
- If a Working Party is considered the best way to progress recommendations of Sir Mike Tomlinson, agree the refreshed Terms of Reference and Membership of said body.

On the event a Working Party is approved with the Membership as proposed, the **Finance Committee** is invited to appoint **two** of its Members to the Working Party.

Main Report

Background

1. In 2019, Sir Mike Tomlinson was commissioned by the Policy & Resources Committee and Education Board to conduct a review into the City's spend on education provision. The scope was agreed as follows:

- i) To review grant funding provided by the City of London Corporation for its Family of Schools, consulting the affiliated Working Party, Members, officers, Chairs of Governors and Principals of those schools as necessary;
 - ii) To assess and report on the impact of such funding and how it correlates to the City of London Corporation's strategic priorities;
 - iii) To provide recommendations to the Working Party on the method of City grant funding that will optimise impact for recipient children whilst respecting the City of London Corporation's historical links; and
 - iv) To report to Policy & Resources and the Education Board the recommendations as approved by the Working Party.
2. A joint Working Party was constituted to consult on the independent review and to approve the final recommendations of the review, for reporting to the Policy & Resources Committee and Education Board. It included Members from the Policy & Resources Committee, Education Board and Finance Committee. The Terms of Reference of this Committee were:

Composition:

- *The Chair of Policy & Resources Committee*
- *The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Education Board*
- *Three further Members of the Policy & Resources Committee*
- *Two further Members of the Education Board*
- *One Member of the Finance Committee*

Quorum:

The quorum shall be the Chairman and any three Members.

Terms of Reference:

The Joint City Education Grant Funding Working party will:-

- (i) Consult on the independent review of City Education Grant Funding being conducted by the Chair of the review; and*
 - (ii) have power by a simple majority of those present and voting at a meeting of the Working Party to approve the final recommendations of the review, for reporting to the Policy & Resources Committee and Education Board.*
3. The final Review was submitted to the Education Board in January 2020 and to the Policy & Resources Committee in February 2020. All recommendations were supported, and a number were able to be implemented immediately by the relevant departments (listed later in the report). However, the more substantive issue within the review concerned the the need for a comprehensive policy and funding model to underpin the City Corporation's grant funding of schools.

Current Position

1. The 'donut' funding model proposed within the Review, was supported in principle by P&R and the Education Board. In early 2020, officers were tasked with producing a draft working model to eventually bring back to Committee. Members of the existing Working Party were consulted as this work initially developed, with Henry Colthurst (then Education Board Chairman) taking the lead.
2. Unfortunately, in Spring 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic caused much of this work to be put on hold until the autumn. In addition to this delay, the Working Party was not re-established at the start of the municipal year due to oversight. As a consequence, when work on the funding model was ready for sharing with Members in late 2020, a view was taken by the Chair of P&R and the acting Chair of the Education Board to hold an informal 'sounding board' type meeting of those previously elected to the Working Party, on 8 December 2020.
3. The purpose of this meeting was to consider the progress made and what the next steps should be. It was also felt necessary to meet as there had been a significant change in the Education Board's representation at the Working Party following the resignation of the former Chairman, and current Chair from the Board in November 2020. Discussion at the meeting focussed on the need to develop a policy that fed into and helped determine the output of the proposed donut model.

Proposals

4. It was the view of those present that the best way to do this would be to reconstitute the Working Party but with updated Terms of Reference and Membership, and allow this body to continue to work on the issues at hand before finally presenting both the funding model and policy to the Education Board, Policy & Resources Committee and possibly to the Court of Common Council.
5. It was agreed that this report be submitted to formally update the committees concerned, to seek their endorsement of this way forward.

Options

4. The following options are available to the Policy & Resources Committee and Education Board:
 - a) Reconstitute the Working Party (in a revised form) to continue to work on the outstanding recommendations of the Review, with a focus on a new funding model and policy that informs it, making a recommendation to Grand Committee for formal approval in due course;
 - b) Do not reconstitute the Working Party and have all matters concerning the Tomlinson Review reported directly to Grand Committee; or

- c) Do not progress with work on a revised funding model or other remaining recommendations from the Review that require further Committee engagement.
5. If a) is the preferred way forward, new Terms of Reference and Membership would need to be approved. As such, a draft has been set at **appendix 1**, in light of comments made at the meeting held on 8 December.
6. Previous membership was as follows:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (P&R)
Randall Anderson (P&R)
Alderman Timothy Hailes (P&R)
Andrew McMurtrie (P&R)
Henry Colthurst (EB)
Ann Holmes (EB)
Tijs Broeke (EB)
Deputy Philip Woodhouse (EB)
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark (Finance)
7. If the composition remains as it was in 2019, Henry Colthurst and Ann Holmes would not be eligible to stand for appointment as they no longer sit on the Education Board. Having led much of the work to date, Members are invited to consider whether there should be some flexibility in the Working Party's composition in respect of the former Chairs of the Education Board, to allow for some continuity in the work.
8. Interest in reappointment has been expressed by all other Members of the Working Party with the exception of Andrew McMurtrie, who stepped back following the conclusion of his term as Chair of the City of London Academies Trust (COLAT).
9. It is proposed that the Chair of the Education Board act as Chair of the Working Party.

Key Data

10. Here is a table that summarises the recommendations of the independent review and provides an update on progress in respect of each.

Recommendation	Lead Department(s)	Progress
Change the method of funding the Family of Schools to a three-tiered 'donut' model. Including consideration on the balance of funding between academies and independent schools.	Education Unit (DCCS) / Chamberlain's	A working version of the proposed model has been created. A policy on the funding balance is required in order to commence the process for any implementation.

Review the subvention system for the provision of services by the COL, allowing schools more autonomy in the purchase services from suppliers offering the best quality and price.	Chamberlain's / Town Clerk's / Independent Schools	To be considered within the work undertaken in response to the COL's Governance Review.
Change the means by which the impact of funding is evaluated and involve the CEO of COLAT within the process.	Education Unit (DCCS) / Chamberlain's / COLAT	This is already now successfully occurring.
Review of data collected from schools to ensure that they are capable of answering the questions of the Education Board/Unit in relation to outcomes and expenditure. To be systematic and consistent.	Education Unit (DCCS) / Chamberlain's / COLAT	This is already now occurring. The Education Unit is working closely with Chamberlain's and the COLAT Director of Finance around tracking and reporting.
Closer alignment of school priorities and their bids for funding with the COL Strategic Plan to be an increasing requirement over time.	Education Unit (DCCS) / COLAT / Independent Schools	This is already now occurring. The Education Unit is working closely with Chamberlain's and the COLAT Director of finance around tracking and reporting. Independent schools are also working towards more aligned reporting.
Single point of reference for all education spending by the Corporation to avoid duplicate funding of activities and to ensure no school seeks such funding which should be part of their core curriculum.	Education Unit (DCCS) / Chamberlain's	This is occurring informally between the Education Unit, Chamberlain's, City Bridge and Education Charity and Culture Mile Learning working closely to ensure there is not double-ups of spending.
Education Board to be responsible for the funding given to the independent schools.	Chamberlain's / Town Clerk's / Independent Schools	To be considered within the work undertaken in response to the COL's Governance Review.
Review of Post-16 offer, given size of some sixth forms, to ensure a better offer that uses resources more efficiently.	Education Unit (DCCS) / COLAT / Independent Schools	A Review of Sixth Form provision was undertaken in 2020 and reported to the Education Board in November.
This review to include the provision of a high-quality technical pathway.	Education Unit (DCCS) / COLAT	As above.
Additional funding/infrastructure for partnership work across the Family of Schools.	Education Unit (DCCS) / Independent Schools	A Partnership Officer has been appointed by the CoL girls and Boys school to start to progress this work. The Education Unit has made a temporary appointment at this stage around partnership working with the view of trialling this for longer term adoption.

<p>Review thresholds for the award of bursaries funded entirely by the COL to ensure the most disadvantaged, but able students, receive them.</p> <p>Funding provided by the COL for bursaries in the three independent schools should be accounted for in reports to the Education Board.</p> <p>A more systematic programme to make known to parents and children in the Family of Schools, the availability of the bursaries and support provided to pupils and assist in preparation for entry tests.</p>	<p>Chamberlain's / Independent Schools</p> <p>Chamberlain's / Town Clerk's / Independent Schools</p> <p>Education Unit (DCCS) / Independent Schools / COLAT</p>	<p>Plans for the thresholds to be reviewed this year.</p> <p>Request to be considered by the three respective Governing Bodies.</p> <p>Work being undertaken by the Schools' Partnership Officer(s).</p>
<p>Changes to the governance arrangements for schools (most notably the independent schools – but not exclusively). Inc. limits to the number of terms a Governor can serve and reduce the number on each Local Governing Body to 12-15.</p> <p>Mechanism on how the Heads and Chairs can inform Court of skills gaps for vacancies.</p>	<p>Town Clerk's</p> <p>Town Clerk's / Independent Schools</p>	<p>In the case of independent Schools - to be considered within the work undertaken in response to the COL's Governance Review. The matter for academies was addressed by the Education Board's own 'internal' governance review in 2019.</p> <p>Skills audits of the Independent Schools are conducted annually and/or on the arising of a vacancy. Nomination Committees for each independent school have been established and these bodies consider skills gaps and how this can be fed into communications when committee vacancies are routinely advertised to Court Members.</p>
<p>Education Board and COL to produce an annual report on the "state of education in the City" to showcase some of the work to be found in the Family of Schools.</p>	<p>Education Unit (DCCS)</p>	<p>The Education Unit has produced the first of the Annual reports of Education activity and this went to Education Board. Tomlinson was keen for this to eventually be a glossier publication which could really highlight and amplify the great work happening across the City in Education. Although not happened yet, this could easily be developed from the report already completed.</p>
<p>Display work from the Family of Schools within and around Guildhall.</p>	<p>Education Unit (DCCS) / City Surveyor</p>	<p>No progress – delayed until further notice in light of COVID-19.</p>

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. This report has no immediate financial, legal or other implications, but seeks to establish a way forward on a matter that will in due course. Once a direction is agreed, these implications will be captured and reported back at the relevant stage(s).

Conclusion

12. This report seeks a clear steer from Members on how to proceed with work in response to the recommendations made by Sir Mike Tomlinson within his *Report of Inquiry into the funding of education by the City of London*.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Revised Draft Terms of Reference and Membership of the Joint City Education Grant Spending (Tomlinson) Working Party

Background Papers

- Report of Inquiry into the funding of education by the City of London, Sir Mike Tomlinson

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Appendix 1

Revised Draft Terms of Reference and Membership of the Joint City Education Grant Spending (Tomlinson) Working Party

Composition

- The Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee
- The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Education Board
- Three further Members of the Policy & Resources Committee
- Two further Members of the Education Board
- Two Members of the Finance Committee

The Chair of the Working Party will have the authority to invite Members and Officers to Working Party meetings in a consultative capacity.

Quorum:

The quorum shall be the Chairman and any three Members.

Terms of Reference

The Joint City Education Grant Spending (Tomlinson) Working Party will:

- (i) Act as a sounding board to advise on the implementation of recommendations made within the *Report of Inquiry into the funding of education by the City of London*, with a focus on the proposed funding model and funding balance between independent schools and academies; and
- (ii) Have power by a simple majority of those present and voting at a meeting of the Working Party, to make recommendations to the Policy & Resources Committee and Education Board for decision.