

Committee: Education Board	Date: 24 June 2014
Subject: Education Strategy and Education Board Background Report	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information

### **Summary**

In January 2013 Policy and Resources Grand Committee approved the establishment of an Education Strategy Working Party. The Working Party held nine meetings over a four month period to review the Corporation's Schools portfolio and governance arrangements, its statutory education provision; education outreach work from City Corporation organisations; and the City Corporation's employability support.

The Working Party proposed endorsement from the Court of Common Council of an Education Strategy which would outline the vision for the City Corporation's Education offer. On the 24 October 2014 the Court of Common Council approved the Education Strategy.

Contained within that strategy was a proposal for the establishment of an overarching education body. The proposed Board would review and have oversight of the City Corporation's education-related activities and oversee the implementation of the Education Strategy. On 1 May 2014 Court approved the establishment of the Education Board and its membership was balloted upon by the Court on 12 June 2014.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to read and note the background information contained in this report. Members are also asked to review and note the further detail regarding the City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013-2015 and the Education Board found in the attached Policy and Resources Committee Court reports.

### **Main Report**

#### **City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013-2015**

1. In January 2013 the Policy and Resources Grand Committee approved the establishment of an Education Strategy Working Party. The Working Party held nine meetings over a four month period to review the Corporation's Schools portfolio and governance arrangements, its statutory education provision; education outreach work from City Corporation organisations; and the City Corporation's employability support.
2. The Working Party worked closely with external organisations; with livery companies, businesses, local authorities and education institutions to identify educational best practice.

3. The Working Party proposed the endorsement from the Court of Common Council of an Education Strategy which would outline the vision for the City Corporation's Education offer. On the 24 October 2014 the Court of Common Council approved the Education Strategy (details of which can be found in Appendix A).
4. The strategy is limited to education provision between the ages of 4-18, covering primary and secondary, but not tertiary education.
5. The strategy states that the City Corporation's vision for education should be *to educate and inspire children and young people to achieve their full potential*.
6. The strategy is segmented into five strategic aims:
  - To promote and support excellent education and access to higher education
  - To strive for excellence in the City schools
  - To inspire children through an enriched education and outreach opportunities
  - To promote an effective transition from education to employment
  - To explore opportunities to expand the City's education portfolio and influence on education throughout London

#### City of London Corporation Education Board

7. Contained within that strategy was a proposal for the establishment of an overarching education body. The strategy recommended that the proposed body be responsible for providing strategic oversight and monitoring of the education strategy. The body would be distinct from other City committees and have a regular cycle of reporting on the performance of City schools, governance and enrichment opportunities.
8. On 1 May 2014 Court approved the establishment of an Education Board with a number of responsibilities, as outlined below:
  - Implementing, monitoring and reviewing the Education Strategy
  - Oversee generally the City of London Corporation's education activities and liaising with the City's affiliated schools and co-sponsors.
  - Promoting opportunities for children resident in the City
  - Oversight of the City's role as a sponsor of academies
  - Appoint the City of London Corporation's representative on school governing bodies where nomination rights are granted and which do not fall within the remit of any other committee
  - Ensuring that the City's contribution to governance of the schools is effective
  - Liaising with City-appointed governors at the City's family of schools to monitor progress and contribution towards the education strategy
  - Oversight of the City's support of and liaison with the City's family of schools and their contribution to the City's education offer, and foster collaboration between the schools

- To have responsibility for the distribution of the City's education funding allocation.
  - Reviewing the City's Cash funding allocations and criteria for funding to the City schools
  - Oversight of proposals for expanding the City schools offer
  - Reviewing the City's educational outreach offer
  - Reviewing the City's activities to support the transition from education to employment and education-business link activities
9. The membership of the Board would be drawn from the Court and makes provision for the appointment of external representatives. The membership was balloted upon by the Court on 12 June 2014.
10. The Court report on the creation of the Education Board is attached as appendix B and was amended at the Court of Common Council on 1 May 2014 as follows:-

Motion – That an additional recommendation f) be added in the following terms 'f) for the avoidance of doubt the right of the Court of Common Council to directly elect its representatives on to the Boards of Governors of the City of London School, the City of London School for Girls and the City of London Freeman's School, and for those Boards to be directly accountable to the Court, shall not be abrogated in any way by the establishment of the Education Board and that the third and fourth bullet points of paragraph 9, at the top of the fourth page of the report be amended to read as follows: -

- To be responsible for the oversight and monitoring of the City of London's sponsorship of its Academies, including *recommending to the Court of Common Council* the appointment of governors.
- To *recommend to the Court of Common Council candidates for appointment* of the City of London Corporation's representative on school governing bodies where nomination rights are granted and which do not fall within the remit of any other committee.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to read and note the background information contained in this report. Members are also asked to review and note the further detail regarding the City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013-2015 and the Education Board found in the attached Policy and Resources Committee Court reports.

Appendix A: Policy and Resources Court Report - City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013-2015.

Appendix B: Policy and Resources Court Report - Creation of an Education Board

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