

Committee (s): Policy and Resources Education Board	Date (s): 3 July 2014 16 October 2014
Subject: Contribution to Education by Livery Companies	Public
Report of: The Town Clerk on behalf of the Livery Education Working Party	For Decision

Summary

At your meeting on 20 February 2014 you supported the establishment of a small working group to review and evaluate the contribution made to education by Livery Companies (LCs). The Livery Education Working Party (LEWP) has now considered and analysed how LCs are currently engaging with education. This includes the work undertaken by the Livery Schools Link (LSL) and other areas that the LEWP felt could be improved to enhance the sharing of experience and information. The report of the LEWP setting out its findings and outcomes is **attached** and it explains that whilst each LC has its own educational aspirations and traditions - some with educational links which are hundreds of years old - their LC involvement in education can be separated into three broad categories:-

- management and governance of schools
- grant giving; and
- direct association with industry.

The review found that whilst the LSL provided some sort of co-ordinating link and had ambitions to expand its membership and services there was little or no co-ordination of LC activities, whether with other LCs or the City Corporation. All LCs largely worked on an autonomous and stand-alone basis. Although there are some external bodies that may be able to provide assistance, there is no central resource able to support or facilitate educational activities. The LSL has neither the resource to achieve its intended aims or the “buy in” to make it fully representative and viable. It is also difficult to collate accurate information about all LC activities and as a result the full value provided by LCs to education is probably under-sung to the outside world.

The LEWP proposes (**see point E**):

- the creation of a central ‘Lord Mayor’s Education Office’ (LMEO) at an estimated cost of £75,000 per annum for two years, which would initially be funded by the City Corporation and thereafter ideally self-funded/or funded partly from the City Bridge Trust, which will link the livery education contribution, promote collaboration and identify opportunities for further livery involvement;
- the establishment of a Management Board to oversee the work of the LMEO; and
- the aim to attract 100% support from all LCs within the first 12 months of operation.

If the above were to be taken forward, through the relevant consultation channels, the LEWP believe that this would give rise to a number of benefits (**see points F & G**) such as:

- increased and possibly more targeted LC funding of education;
- creation of a genuine “working link” not only between different kinds of LCs, but also between children, parents and schools, for example able to highlight bursary availability, internship openings and potential funding opportunities which individuals might otherwise not know about or be unable to fill from their own resources;
- facilitation of a co-ordinated strategy which aligns LCs with the City Corporation in the medium term – enabling all parties to make better use of existing skillsets and publicising their contributions to the outside world;
- an opportunity to create a City Corporation link (potential consultancy service) with other London Boroughs and their schools; and
- greater awareness of educational opportunities.

Overall the above proposals aim to improve the access and quality of education for young people.

Recommendation: - That consideration be given by the Policy and Resources Committee to the findings of the LEWP and that the report be referred to the Education Board to progress as appropriate.

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