

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Education Board	21 May 2015
Subject: Special Interest Area Scheme	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Summary	
<p>This paper gives an overview of the objectives of Special Interest Area Schemes (SIA), how they are operate in other City of London Corporation Grand Committees, and options for implementation within the Education Board. SIAs are in place to improve knowledge on part of Members about key areas of strategic business activities. Lead Members who are agreed and assigned for each SIA are asked to provide feedback to the Committee on their area, follow up on issues when they may arise and maintain regular contact with relevant officers.</p>	
Recommendation(s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are asked to consider the benefits of adopting the Special Interest Area scheme within the Education Board and which areas they would include 	

Main Report

Background

1. As it exists in other Committees, the SIA system operates through direct liaison between relevant officers at the City of London Corporation (CoL) and its associated organisations, and the agreed Lead Members of the Committee
2. An officer contact in the relevant area of business is tasked to make regular contact with their respective SIA Lead Member(s), keeping them informed of developments or issues which may arise throughout the year. Officers are also responsible for ensuring Lead Members are reasonably involved in meetings / discussions where general strategic direction in each of the areas is being considered. Parties are requested to keep in touch on a regular basis say, bimonthly (or more often if this is seen as beneficial) and are encouraged to speak freely to each other, keeping the Clerk to the Committee informed where relevant
3. Lead Members are expected to oversee the work that takes place, challenging and following up issues where necessary. The objective of the SIA system is not to give a management role to Members; instead it is intended to boost the support in which the Committee provides to CoL in delivering its strategic outcomes. As such it is possible that Members may put forward suggestions for improving the way in which certain activities are undertaken to deliver the strategic outcomes
4. Lead Members are encouraged to raise issues in their SIAs at the Grand Committee to ensure that the appropriate action is taken, and there is a standing item on the agenda to provide the Committee with an update on developments that may take place in-between meetings

- Members business / professional skills can be used to benefit their SIA and provide inquiry to CoL's business activity

Options

- Should the Education Board find the SIA scheme beneficial to implement, one of the options for doing so would be to create broad SIA areas that mirror the aims set out in the City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013 - 2015
- The table below sets out proposed broad SIAs for discussion and how they map to the strategic objectives of the Education Strategy
- However it may be appropriate to review these areas once the Education Strategy re-fresh exercise is completed in 2015 – 2016, in line with any updated or new objectives

CoL Education Strategy objectives	Proposed SIA (Key contacts in brackets)
To promote and support excellent education and access to higher education	Education Expansion
To strive for excellence in the City schools	Performance and attainment in City Academies
	Working together with the Independent Schools to benefit the City School Family
To inspire children through an enriched education and outreach opportunities	Cultural enrichment and outreach (Learning and Engagement Forum)
To promote an effective transition from education to employment	Education to employment City business engagement (Employability Group; Business Engagement Manager)
	Education to employment City Academies (SMT at City Academies; EDO officer)
To explore opportunities to expand the City's education portfolio and influence on education throughout London	City Livery and education (Livery Schools Link, Livery Committee)

Appendices:

- None

Background Papers:

- City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013 - 2015

Laura Donegani

Policy Officer, Town Clerks

T: 020 7332 3236

E: laura.donegani@cityoflondon.gov.uk