

Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board	15 October 2015
Subject: City Schools: Prioritisation for Academy Expansion – update	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Decision

Summary

At its May meeting, the Education Board adopted a proposed prioritisation process for the City of London Corporation to assess requests to act as an academy sponsor as an interim measure pending the expected review of strategic priorities for the ensuing year. The proposal included the recommendation that a due diligence report should be developed to help Members assess the viability of the proposal.

The Education Strategy Director has developed a due diligence report (Appendix 1) that is designed to enable Members to assess the viability of future proposals.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to: endorse the proposed due diligence report to assess the viability of requests to act as an academy sponsor.

Main Report

Background

1. At its meeting on 21 May 2015, the Education Board adopted a prioritisation process for the City of London Corporation to us in order to assess requests to act as an academy sponsor. This was adopted as an interim measure pending the expected review of strategic priorities for the ensuing year.
2. The proposal included the recommendation that a due diligence report should be developed to help Members assess the viability of proposals.

Current Position

3. The Education Strategy Director has developed a due diligence report (Appendix 1) that is designed to enable Members to assess the viability of future proposals.

Proposals

4. When the City Corporation is approached to support an additional school Officers will carry out a detailed due diligence process that will culminate in the production of a due diligence report for the Education Board to consider.
5. The proposed due diligence report will allow Officers to present their findings to the Education Board and enable Members to consider the viability of proposals. The report uses RAG ratings, and supporting evidence, to provide Members with an assessment of risk and viability in the following areas:
 - finance,
 - attainment,
 - views of parents and the local community,
 - current performance,
 - leadership and governance,
 - asset condition,
 - capacity, and
 - other risks, with mitigating factors.
6. Since the prioritisation process was approved, the City Corporation has had two tentative approaches to support schools. Officers are therefore following the agreed prioritisation process and, once due diligence work is complete, a full report will be presented to the Education Board for consideration by Members.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

7. Expanding the number of City academies would have strategic implications, such as the need for a Chief Executive Officer to oversee and expand the chain of City academies, additional central support services, increased demand for engagement with the City's educational offer, a need for additional governors, and additional funding allocations. Therefore, proposals endorsed by the Education Board will also be considered by Policy and Resources Committee and then, if required, the Court of Common Council.

Conclusion

8. If it is adopted, the proposed due diligence report will enable Members to assess the viability of future proposals.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – due diligence report

Background Papers

City Schools: Prioritisation for Academy Expansion

Mark Emmerson

Education Strategy Director

E: mark.emmerson@cityoflondon.gov.uk