

Committee(s) Education Board	Dated: 15 October 2015
Subject: Special Interest Areas 2015/16	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision

Summary

In May 2015 the Education Board agreed to adopt a Special Interest Area scheme to promote increased member involvement and liaison in the delivery of the City of London Corporation's Education Strategy. This report therefore provides a proposed schedule of special interest areas designed to promote member liaison in both the City of London Corporation's education portfolio and its Education Strategy 2016.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to,

- Review the proposed schedule of special interest areas
- Appoint lead member(s) to each special interest area.

Main Report

Background

1. The Education Board agreed to adopt a Special Interest Area (SIA) scheme at its May 2015 meeting. Adoption of the scheme was subsequently deferred so that SIA areas would better reflect the strategic and operational objectives of the forthcoming Education Strategy 2016.

Education Strategy 2016

2. Members are considering the executive summary of the proposed Education Strategy 2016 elsewhere on this agenda. It is proposed that the refreshed strategy be streamlined, with the first two objectives of the 2013-15 strategy relating to education in schools and to higher education being combined, and the fifth objective (education expansion and influence on education) embedded within other objectives. In summary, the strategy will be refined down to three broad objectives with associated actions and indicators of success.

Special Interest Area Scheme

3. The streamlined education strategy will incorporate a number of key actions for each objective. Given the broad nature of the strategy's objectives, a schedule of SIAs has been drawn up that seeks to both capture areas of strategic significance in which members may wish to be involved across the City's wider education portfolio as well as key objectives within the Education Strategy 2016.

Conclusion

4. The Education Board has agreed to adopt a special interest area scheme and a proposed schedule is appended for consideration and approval.

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Appendix - Education Board Special Interest Area Schedule 2015/16

Education Board Special Interest Area Schedule 2015/16

Lead member(s) for each special interest area (SIA) will be appointed annually by the Education Board at its first meeting. Each SIA will have a nominated lead officer with whom the lead member will remain in regular contact. Lead officers will keep lead members abreast of developments or issues that arise throughout the year. Lead members are expected to keep a “watching brief” on the work that takes place within their area, questioning and following up on issues where necessary. Members are not expected to assume a management role, but instead enhance the role the Education Board as a whole can play in delivering the Education Strategy. Finally, lead members are encouraged to bring matters arising to the Board for consideration.

In liaising with lead officers, the lead member will keep the Education Board clerk informed, to encourage continuity across the SIA portfolio. The SIAs are as follows.

SIA 1 – Academy Governance

Lead Officer: Education Strategy Director

The City of London Corporation is accountable for the performance of its sponsored/co-sponsored academies and for establishing clear governance and accountability structures. Lead Member(s) will liaise with officers to ensure the City Corporation is exercising appropriate governance over the City academies, including the proposed adoption of an overarching Multi Academy Trust, and assist where appropriate with relationship management with academy co-sponsors and academy boards, though this will be primarily the responsibility of the lead member for each relevant academy and the Chairman/Deputy Chairman of the Education Board.

SIA 2 – Attainment and Performance

Lead Officer: Education Strategy Director

The City of London Corporation is responsible for three secondary academies and three independent schools which have undertaken national examinations in 2015. The City of London Corporation is held accountable for the progressive and sustainable performance of the three academies of which it is a sponsor. Lead Member(s) will liaise with officers in relation to analysis, scrutiny and action relating to attainment across the City Family of Schools and the City academies in particular.

SIA 3 – City Family of Schools

Lead Officer: Education Policy Officer

A Chairmen of Governors’ Forum and Headteachers’ Forum have been established to facilitate collaboration in areas of best practice across the City Family of Schools, mainly through the development of partnership activities including subject workshops; Director of Sixth Form meetings; careers advice and governor training. Lead Member(s) will liaise with officers to support the development of existing

collaboration developed during 2014/15 and the development of proposals outlined to the Education Board in June 2015.

SIA 4 – Strategic Finance

Lead Officer: Head of Finance

The Education Board first considered an overview of the City Corporation's annual spend on education activity in January 2015, and considers annual budget allocations on spending from the Education Board budget. Lead Member(s) will monitor strategic spend across the education portfolio.

SIA 5 – Local Education Authority Duty

Lead Officer: Education and Early Years Manager

The City has a number of local authority statutory duties regarding education such as championing pupil and parent choice, securing a wide range of education options for parents and families, ensuring there are sufficient high-quality school places, coordinating fair admissions including for SEND, and promoting social justice by supporting vulnerable children. These statutory duties are properly the responsibility of the Community and Children's Services Committee, and therefore lead member(s) will be responsible for liaising with that committee on emerging trends and issues.

SIA 6 – Cultural Engagement and Outreach

Lead Officer: Education Policy Officer

The Learning & Engagement Forum (LEF) has been convened to coordinate and develop cultural outreach activities undertaken by cultural venues associated with the City of London. This work supports the objective of the education strategy that seeks to ensure that the City's world leading cultural and historical resources benefit all of London's learners. The Lead Member(s) will liaise with the Education Policy Officer on matters relating the LEF.

SIA 7 – Work-Related Learning

Lead Officer: Partnerships Manager (EDO)

The City Corporation recognises that providing opportunities for young people to have first-hand experiences with employers, in the City and elsewhere, from an early age, will help develop awareness of career pathways and future job prospects as well as helping them to acquire the soft skills and attributes necessary to succeed. The City Corporation supports a range of work-related learning activities and work interactions which are available to schools across its neighbouring boroughs and also open to the City's family of schools. Lead member(s) will liaise with the Employability Forum where appropriate.

SIA 8 – Careers Advice

Lead Officer: Partnerships Manager (EDO); Education Policy Officer

The Education Strategy 2016 recognises that young people deserve to have access to quality and reliable careers advice and information to ensure that their future working lives are not determined by chance and personal circumstances. Lead member(s) will liaise with officers on this element of the strategy, namely careers policies in the City academies, lead governors, and active participation by the City Corporation on the London Ambitions Career Offer, and liaising with the Employability Forum where appropriate.

SIA 9 – Livery

Lead Officer: Assistant Town Clerk

The Livery makes an important and diverse contribution to education. Lead member(s) will be responsible for liaising with the Livery Committee, Livery Schools Link and the Livery Education and Training Office (LETO) to promote collaboration and best practice between the Livery and the City of London Corporation.