

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Education Board	<b>21 July 2016</b>
<b>Subject:</b> City of London Academies Trust - Priorities for Academy Expansion	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Decision</b>

### Summary

The portfolio of City of London Corporation schools is expanding, with approval from the Department for Education (DfE) and Education Funding Agency (EFA) to move into the pre-opening stage for two new CoL Primary Academies and further applications approved and submitted for Newham Collegiate Sixth Form, Mount Carmel School, City of London Academy Shoreditch Park, and City of London Academy Downs Park.

The set up and widening of the City of London Academies Trust (COLAT), its relationship with the Education Board and the changing educational landscape which has been set in the recent government White Paper means that we need to revisit the current agreed prioritisation process for any further academy expansion.

This paper outlines proposed changes to the process.

### Recommendation(s)

- Members are asked to approve a revised prioritisation process for the City Corporation to assess requests to act as sponsor for a school, as outlined in this report

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The City Corporation family of schools currently comprises:

- **1 maintained primary school** – Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School;
- **1 sponsored primary academy** – Redriff Primary City of London Academy;
- **3 sponsored secondary academies** – The City Academy, Hackney (TCAH) - jointly sponsored with KPMG; City of London Academy, Islington (COLAI) - jointly sponsored with City University; City of London Academy Southwark (COLAS); and
- **3 independent schools for which the City Corporation is the proprietor** – City of London School, City of London School for Girls, and City of London Freemen's School.

2. The City Corporation is accountable for academy schools through its role as sponsor and its corporate role as member on the COLAT.
3. Currently COLAT runs two schools, COLAS and Redriff Primary School, and is opening two new primary schools, Galleywall in September 2016, and City of London Primary Academy Islington in 2017. In addition, COLAT has also submitted four free school applications to the Department for Education.

If all schools are approved the timeline for development and opening will be as follows.

1. Galleywall Primary City of London Academy	September 2016
2. Newham Collegiate Sixth Form Centre	September 2016
3. City of London Primary Academy Islington	September 2017
4. Mount Carmel (Secondary)	September 2017
5. City of London Academy Shoreditch Park (Secondary)	September 2017
6. City of London Academy Downs Park 2019 (Secondary)	September 2019

In order to be successful COLAT will need to ensure that the agreed prioritisation and due diligence process is updated and revised to ensure that:

- it has the capacity to support, challenge and lead a process that will result in an 'outstanding' school;
- it has the resources and capacity to sustain outstanding educational standards in individual schools;
- lines of accountability are clear;
- decision making and delegated responsibilities are clear; and
- the geographical area in which it would consider expansion is defined.

4. The process we have previously agreed now needs to be amended in the light of the reformed COLAT and the existing expansion that is already planned.

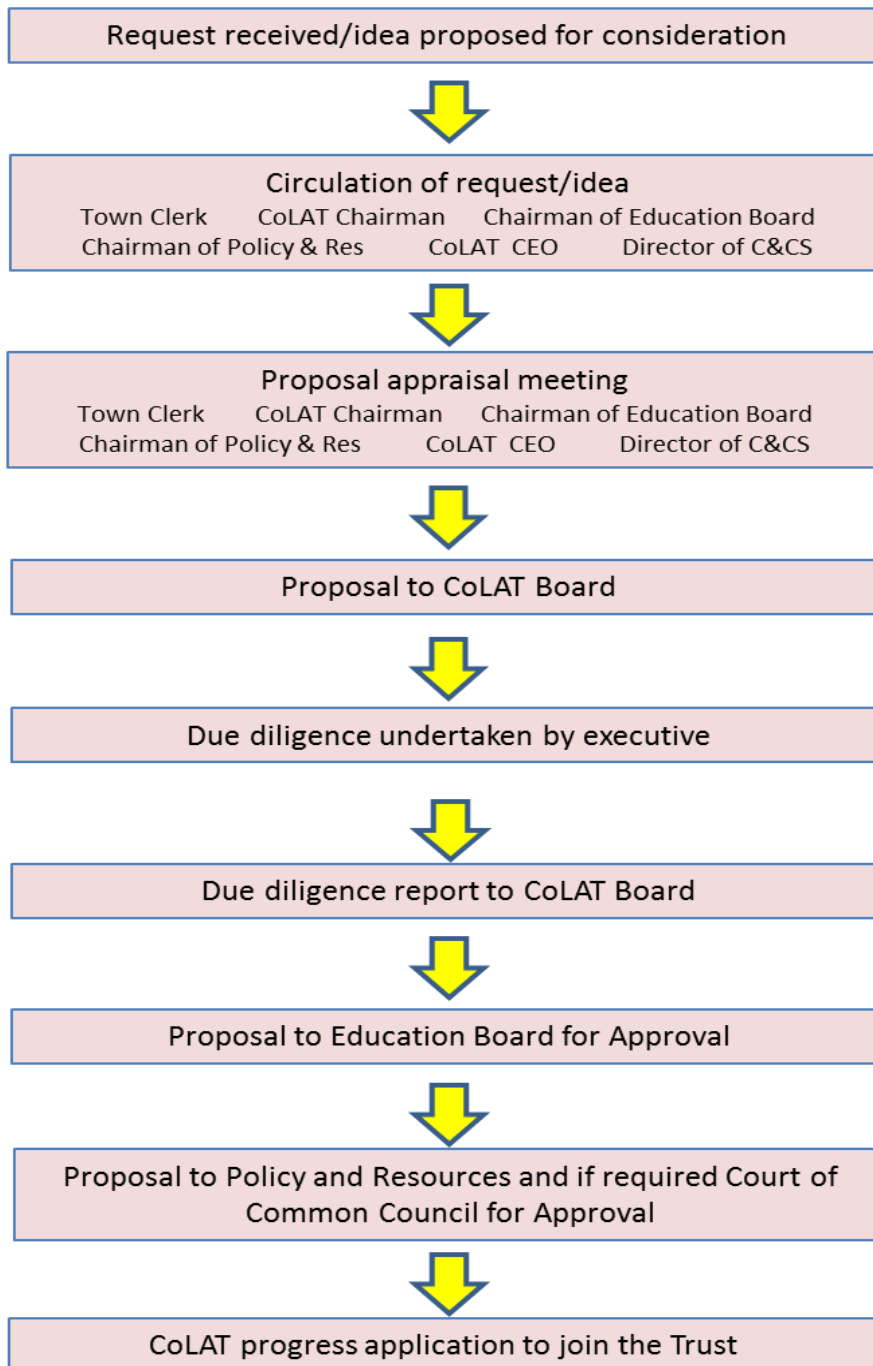
### **The Existing Agreed Prioritisation Process**

- i. Initial requests are made with Chief Officer/Town Clerk.
- ii. Meeting with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Education Board, and Chairman of Policy and Resources
- iii. Proposal to sponsor / MAT (if applicable).
- iv. Proposal enters formal CoL governance process and is submitted to Education Board.
- v. Proposal to Policy and Resources Committee and then if required to Court of Common Council.



## Proposed Amended Prioritisation Process - 2016/17 onwards

### CoL Academy Prioritisation Process



#### **Prioritisation - due diligence**

5. For each request the previously agreed due diligence report is submitted to help assess the viability of the proposal.

**Mark Emmerson**

Education Strategy Director

E: [mark.emmerson@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:mark.emmerson@cityoflondon.gov.uk)