
EFFECTIVENESS OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS – PROGRESS REPORT

Reason for the Report

1. To provide the Committee with an updated progress report on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations following the Cabinet Members positive response to the Inquiry report copy attached at **Appendix A**.

Background

2. Committee undertook an Inquiry as part of their 2015/16 work programme titled The Effectiveness of School Governors in Challenging School Performance, which was published in July 2015.
3. The Cabinet Member for Education responded to the Committee's inquiry report letter on 19 October 2015. The response letter reported that the Cabinet Member was pleased to note that the report's overall findings and recommendations reflected her own views, and that strengthening school governance is a priority for Education. The response letter report stated that all 10 of the Committee's recommendations had been accepted.
4. The Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate also developed an action plan, dated June 2015, for the implementation of the recommendations, which provided a detailed explanation of how each recommendation was being addressed, together with an anticipated implementation date (copy attached at **Appendix B**).

Progress since June 2015

5. The report attached at **Appendix A** provides a detailed explanation of the work undertaken since the receipt of the Committee's inquiry report letter, in further developing the effectiveness of school governors in improving the educational attainment of their pupils. The report appraises the progress across the 10 recommendations as well as explaining the next steps in the continuous improvement of School Governing Bodies

Scope of Scrutiny

6. The scope of this scrutiny is to consider the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate's plans for developing the effectiveness of school governors and to pass on any observations, comments or recommendations to the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning.
 - a. the progress being made to undertake the Actions identified in the Plan;
 - b. the impact of the actions to improve the effectiveness of the School Governors;

Way Forward

7. Councillor Sarah Merry (Cabinet Member for Education) has been invited and may make a statement. Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) and Jackie Turner (Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) have been invited to present the progress report and to answer any questions Members may have.
8. Members are invited to consider the information set out in the attached report and to identify any issues on which they would wish to receive further information.

Legal Implications

- 9.** The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend, but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

- 10.** The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, review and recommend, but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

Committee is recommended to consider the contents of the progress report attached at **Appendix A** and provide the Cabinet Member and Director with any comments, concerns or recommendations.

Davina Fiore

Director Governance and Legal Services

30 November 2016