

REPORT TO: Kingston Schools Forum
DATE: 18 June 2019
SUBJECT: Education Commission

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To update Schools Forum on the publication of the Education Commission report.
- 1.2 To facilitate a discussion by Schools Forum on the Commission findings and in particular those that relate to schools and Schools Forum.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Forum members discuss the report and make associated recommendations.

3. Context

- 3.1 Schools Forum will be aware that, in February 2018, the principle was agreed of inviting an 'Education Commission' to take an independent view of the difficulties surrounding the delivery of Education Services in Kingston. The Commission, which started work in October 2018, was asked to look at how the overspend occurred and to provide recommendations as to what the Council might do to deliver its education provision within the available financial envelope. The cited objectives of the Commission were:

- to ensure all key stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities in the system and how they can collectively secure the best for our children and young people from the education funding available
- to produce an evidence base and route map to ensure that: funding equals expenditure; all stakeholders are maximising independence and inclusion; the right support is provided at the right time; all are complying appropriately with legislation, and there is an appropriate balance between quality and resources
- to produce a clear evidence base in respect of any underlying funding issues which will provide support to Council's approach to any future discussions on Dedicated Schools Grant

4. Commission findings

- 4.1 The Commission formally began its work on 1 October 2018 and will close following the outcome of the Children and Adults Care and Education Committee on the 13th June 2019. The review process involved a structured programme of activity commencing with a review of background materials, the framing of questions and a first round of engagement with stakeholders. Following this a review of the outcomes from these interviews was undertaken which was developed into initial findings that were reflected back to Commissioners and stakeholders. The Commission did not act as a formal enquiry but instead its role encompassed gathering information and making recommendations through a process of collaborative engagement and exploration. Following this, there was a second round of

stakeholder engagement to test these hypotheses, from which final conclusions and recommendations were developed.

- 4.2 The full Committee report is available to view at the following link:

<https://moderngov.kingston.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=662&MId=8756>

- 4.3 The Commission report is available at the following link:

https://moderngov.kingston.gov.uk/documents/s84099/2.2_recd2905_Annex%202_Education%20Commission%20Report%20PM.pdf

- 4.4 The Council has put together an action plan which is available to view at the following link:

https://moderngov.kingston.gov.uk/documents/s84093/2.3_FINALAnnex%203_Action%20Plan%20responding%20to%20EC%20Recommendations.pdf

- 4.5 Schools Forum are encouraged to discuss the full report and attention is specifically drawn to the following recommendations:

“It is recommended that the Schools Forum:

33. Considers the value in expanding membership of sub committees or working groups to cover specialist areas (such as High Needs) in order to broaden the base of the Forum’s work to include collaborative consideration of existing and emerging issues as they relate to the funding environment.

34. Annually, consider the need and scope for reallocation of funds from the Schools Block into the High Needs Block, in order to make optimum provision for all Kingston children and young people.

35. Facilitate and support all schools’ commitment to the recommended whole system approach to the use of the DSG and the application of the DfE recommended levels of balance requirements.”

- 4.6 Schools Forum are asked to discuss the findings and associated action plan and make recommendations.

5. **Contacts**

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