

Southend-on-Sea Education Board

on
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Report prepared by:
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Operational Review of Education Board and Sub Groups (including PwC recommendations)

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 On the transition of the Schools Forum to Education Board in October 2016, the terms of reference agreed at the time required the new board to:

- Review effectiveness and impact after one year, to be completed by 31/7/17
- Election for Board from 1/10/17; subject to initial review and evaluation activity.
- Evaluation should include consultation and SBC Audit

1.2 In line with this requirement, this paper seeks the views of Board on how best to implement those proposals.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Board takes a view on the most appropriate and proportionate means to evaluate the effectiveness of its operations over the first year;
- 2.2 That Board commissions a review in order to meet the first recommendation.

3. Background/Context

- 3.1 Board has been operating for one year, and has achieved significant progress in a short period of time, notably the establishment of three sub groups, national recognition in an award and managing the business of Southend Education.
- 3.2 As part of its set up, it commissioned a pre audit from PwC of its likely effectiveness (appendix one, updated plan).
- 3.3 There could be a sense in the wider Southend education community that Board operates in isolation, and gives the impression of little connectivity to some schools.
- 3.4 We are currently behind the schedule established under the operational terms of reference. However, in view of a range of contextual aspects, including the time that a complete review might take, Board may wish to consider a more proportionate approach to a review.
- 3.5 Board should also have a view on the efficacy of arranging elections, either full or partial at a time when there remains vacancies on Board at present.
- 3.6 An element that Board may wish to consider is how best Board and Board members (including members of the various sub groups) can better “connect” with their wider constituencies.

4. Summary of benefits of the proposal]

- 4.1 Board would be fulfilling the terms of reference;
- 4.2 Board members would better understand the effectiveness of their work within the first year;
- 4.3 Board would meet the requirements of the PwC audit.

5. Implications of the report

5.1 Financial implications. None other than the time taken for the review/election.

5.2 Consultation. Will occur as part of the implementation of the recommendations.

5.3 Risk associated with the report. Board could be seen not to meet its obligations under the Terms of Reference. Already Board has been challenged for not being called “schools Forum”.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 PwC updated Audit report.
- 6.2 Updated action plan

Appendix 2

Updated action plan

Ref	Action required	Progress
R1	Update TOR	TOR updated and agreed at the start of the process.
R2	Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board review membership every meeting. Elections advertised as required to fill vacancies. • Agendas, papers and minutes hosted on public website 5 working days in advance of the meeting. • Board features strongly in all communications, including Council, Cabinet and scrutiny minutes, Directors Briefings and in the local press.
R3	Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An agenda setting meeting takes place with Officers, followed by a chairs briefing prior to Board. • Officers are required to prepare for papers in advance. Any matters that arise on the day that cannot be dealt with will be carried forwards. • KPI and dashboards are key features of all sub groups. Any performance issues that require escalating will be tabled at Board.
R4	R&R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be completed following Oct 17 Board
R5	Sub groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three sub groups established and functioning • TOR all agreed
R6	Induction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new elections have taken place. Should elections be required, then a full induction will take place.
R7	Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papers published on Website 5 days in advance of every meeting, followed by agreed minutes.