

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Deputy Chief Executive (People)

to
Cabinet

on

13th March 2018

Report prepared by: Brin Martin, Director of Learning

Annual Education Report

People Scrutiny Committee

Executive Councillor: Councillor Courtenay
A Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

This report is to inform Cabinet of the publication of the Annual Education Report (AER) on the retrospective performance of Southend Schools for the academic year 2016/17.

2. Recommendations

- a. That Cabinet notes and approves the new format for the AER;
- b. That Cabinet approve the report and recognise the very positive outcomes for learners across all Key Stages.

3. Background

Traditionally the Council has published a very detailed document on the retrospective performance for learners in Southend based upon the previous academic year's outcomes. These outcomes are not validated by the Department for Education nationally until late in the year. In reality, this has meant that the AER is published once a year, some nine months after the summer outcomes are known.

Whilst the report has previously been detailed, its frequency and usefulness to both members and members of the public has been limited. The decision was made to make the AER more accessible through the use of "infographics", whilst still retaining the same key headline information.

As a result of the establishment of the Southend Education Board, and the relevant sub group for School Performance that supports it, far greater scrutiny and analysis has been provided to Cabinet in the 19th September 2017 report, and through far more regular and detailed summaries contained in the School Progress Reports submitted

to each People Scrutiny Committee. In addition, the later paper is now Part One, in the public domain, and therefore more accessible and open to members of the public.

4. Other Options

The other option of pursuing the previous format has been dismissed for the reasons stated above.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

Irrespective of the format of the report, recognition of the very strong performance of Southend Schools should be celebrated. It is hoped that the new AER will allow more people to access their achievements.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

Ensure residents have access to high quality education to enable them to be lifelong learners and have fulfilling employment

6.2 Financial Implications

Traditionally the compilation of the 80 page AER has taken a significant number of days from the Data and Performance Team, and indeed in previous iterations consultant time to draw the report together. The new format, whilst still compiled by the team is considerably shorter and more cost effective.

6.3 Legal Implications

None

6.4 People Implications

The same degree of scrutiny will be made available through People Scrutiny Committee.

6.5 Property Implications

None

6.6 Consultation

None required

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

Not applicable, although the report and the data sets that underpin it intrinsically considers in detail the performance of groups by gender, SEND, deprivation and ethnicity.

6.8 Risk Assessment

None required

6.9 Value for Money

See 6.2 above

6.10 Community Safety Implications

Not applicable

6.11 Environmental Impact

Not applicable

7. Background Papers

None

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Annual Education Report 2016/17