

Southend-on-Sea Education Board

on

26th March 2019

Report prepared by:
Robert Harris, Ed. Board Clerk

Operational and Good Practice Review of Education Board

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the outcomes/recommendations from the Task & Finish Group set-up to review the operational practice of the Board (formerly referred to as the Schools Forum) in line with the Education & Skills Funding Agency publication, 'Schools Forum: Operational and Good Practice Guide' and relevant legislation.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the views of the Board members be provided in respect of the matters set out in this report and that the membership be revised accordingly, subject to the views of the Board.

3. Background/Context

- 3.1 The Education and Skills Funding Agency issued new guidance entitled 'Operational and Good Practice Guide' to Schools Forum in September 2018. The Education Board on 30th October 2018 agreed to set-up a time-limited Task and Finish Group to undertake a light touch review of the Board's structure and operation. This Sub Group met on 15th March 2019 and carried out the review, including the the Education and skills Funding Agency self-assessment toolkit **(attached at Appendix 1).**
- 3.2 The Board is asked to note that in relation to the relevant legislation and good practice the Board is carrying out its functions effectively and appropriately. For example, in relation to its powers and responsibilities the Board is fulfilling its duties and functions. Therefore it is not intended to cover the guidance in full but to focus on the key issues to be addressed, as set out below.

Matters for the Education Board's consideration

- 3.3 The Task and Finish Group also considered a number of matters not covered in the Self-Assessment related to the guidance and seeks the views of Board members on the following matters:
- Direct consultation from the Education Board to stakeholders on matters of importance (linked to Question 17 on the self-assessment forum);
 - Does the Board wish to see Multi-Academy Trusts (MAT's) represented in any way going forward, and if so, how does the Board wish to take this forward;
 - How do delegates/Board members represent and canvas views of their respective constituencies, and as a proxy, what do members think about facilities time;

These matters will be covered in more detail at the meeting as verbal feedback.

Membership

- 3.4 In terms of membership several minor changes are required to reflect the change in status of two schools in the borough, namely the conversion of Futures College (Southchurch High School) and Temple Sutton Primary School to an academy. The revised membership is attached at **Appendix 2**. Effectively, the changes needed are:
- To decrease the maintained primary sector from 5 to 4 places (removing Temple Sutton Primary as it is now an academy);
 - To increase the Academy Primary places to 5 (adding Temple Sutton Primary School);
 - Delete the maintained secondary schools representation as there are now none in the borough;
 - To move representation of Futures College (Southchurch High School) to the Academy Secondary and increase the places to 6.
- 3.5 The Board are also asked to note that two vacancies have arisen as set out in **Appendix 2**.
- 3.6 As referenced above in 3.3 the Board's views on whether MAT's should be represented and how this should be taken forward are sought.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Self-Assessment Form completed by the Ed. Board Clerk

Appendix 2 – Revised Education Board Membership