Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Director of Regeneration and Growth
To
Cabinet
On
13th January 2020

Report prepared by: Ros Parker, Principal Southend Adult Community College

Southend Adult Community College Annual Performance Report

Relevant Scrutiny Committee(s): Place Scrutiny
Cabinet Member: Councillor Ian Gilbert
Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

The report presents the annual performance report for Southend Adult Community College ("the College") and provides an update on the progress made in aligning the college with the council's governance, accountability and Southend 2050 Ambition outcome delivery.

2. Recommendations

That the annual performance report for Southend Adult Community College 2020/21, provided in Appendix A, is noted.

3. Background

3.1 The Council receives funding for the delivery of adult skills, apprenticeships, young people's provision, community learning and Special Educational Need and Disabilities (SEND) programmes from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Southend Adult Community College ("the College"), plans and delivers learning and skills in line with the contract of funding as the Council's in house learning and skills provider.

3.2 The College previously operated at arms' length from the Council with an independent governance structure and operating model similar to that of a maintained school. In November 2020 Cabinet took a decision to bring the College into the strategic leadership of the Council and align its provision of learning and skills to the Southend 2050 ambitions and improve its financial performance (minute 520 refers).

3.3 The College disbanded its governing body and has established a new governance and accountability structure within the Council's reporting framework. It has also established an independent advisory board to provide

additional capacity in key areas of organisational development consisting of individuals who are specialists in their field.

3.4   Now under these new arrangements the College has provided its first annual report that sets out its performance for the academic year 2020/21 and updates Members on progress made with the transition towards greater integration with council service areas

4.   Other Options

4.1   Options for alternative delivery models were considered previously and it was agreed that the preferred option was to integrate the College more fully into the Council. This report reflects the progress made since this option was agreed.

4.2   This report is for noting.   Members could identify other information to be included in future performance reporting for the College.

5.   Reasons for Recommendations

The report recommends that the College's annual performance report is noted by Cabinet, reflecting the changed governance arrangements now in place. As part of the Council, it is important that the positive contributions of the College to the skills, employment and well-being of Southend residents is presented as part of the organisation's economic recovery and community resilience activity.

6.   Corporate Implications

6.1   Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

The report sets out how the college has aligned its provision to the Southend 2050 roadmap and the outcomes achieved during the 2020/21 academic year. The learning, skills and wellbeing delivered by the College directly contribute to the following 2050 outcomes:

We protect and improve the quality of life for everyone in our community, including the vulnerable. The College is inclusive and seeks to improve outcomes for all who engage with it.   Further, it offers specialist provision for vulnerable learners.

More Southenders agree that people from different backgrounds are valued and get on well together. The College brings together learners from different backgrounds with a shared ambition around learning, skills and employment, including provision such as ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages).

Our children are school-ready and young people are ready for further education, employment or training. The College offers specific provision for young people and supports other projects such as Kickstart.

As part of our economic recovery, Southend businesses feel supported to respond to economic shocks and can thrive and grow, creating enough job roles to match the needs of the population and safeguarding fulfilling careers. The College works with local businesses in many areas, including apprenticeship provision. It seeks to meet local need through its curriculum.

Southend is a leading smart city, using technology in smart ways to enable improved resident services, and ensure digital inclusion. Our connectivity, data and principles approach to digital enable us to facilitate better decision making, automated services and digital experiences for those across the borough. The College is seeking to address the digital divide through its provision and has worked with Cityfibre on this agenda.

Further the College positively contributes to the Council's recovery priorities, particularly priority 1 "Economic focus on a stronger and safer town".

6.2   Financial Implications

6.2.1   There are no direct financial implications of this report and appendix.   The annual report does however reflect that the college has made significant financial savings to ensure expenditure is contained within income, which will improve its financial performance and be fully realised in the academic year 2021/22.

6.2.2   As the integration work continues, there will be further opportunities for savings, such as making a more significant contribution to the provision of workforce skills, apprenticeships and learning for health and wellbeing which could result in savings across other council service areas, optimise the use of public funds and generate new income.

6.3   Legal Implications

6.3.1   There are no legal implications of this report

6.4   People Implications

6.4.1   There are no people implications of this report.

6.4.2   The report reflects how the college has supported local people throughout the pandemic keeping them in learning and work, supporting positive mental health and wellbeing.

6.4.3   To enable the college to improve its financial position as set out in the previous report the college has undertaken a significant restructure resulting in redundancies.

6.5   Property Implications

6.5.1 The College has continued to operate from its three sites (Southchurch, Westcliff and Belfairs) and has benefitted from greater integration with the Property and Estates team.

6.6 Consultation

6.6.1 No consultation was required specifically for this report however the College undertakes regular engagement with staff, learners and partners to inform its activities and provision.

6.6.2 The College undertook a meaningful consultation with staff and unions in regards to the restructure to ensure the process was open, transparent and fair.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.7.1 The reports sets out how the College is embracing diversity and inclusion. Through the restructure all job roles have had equality, diversity and inclusion embedded into their functions and a senior leader has been identified to lead the promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion.

6.8 Risk Assessment

6.8.1 The College has risk assessments in place and continues to monitor and report on risks. The high-level risks include improving financial performance and securing quality improvements in teaching and learning to support growth and future sustainability

6.9 Value for Money

6.9.1 There are no value for money considerations directly resulting from this report. The College's financial position is regularly reviewed through the new governance arrangements.

6.10 Community Safety Implications

6.10.1 There are no community safety implications directly related to this report

6.11 Environmental Impact

6.11.1 There are no environmental impacts directly related to this report.

6.11.2 The College annual performance report will be available online only for environmental sustainability. Environment/climate change is an opportunity for the College which is well placed to provide training and support for skills in this area for the Council and residents

7.   Background Papers

Cabinet report 3rd November 2020 (minute 520)

8.   Appendices

Appendix A – Southend Adult Community College annual performance report 2020/21