

Decision Maker: **EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE**

Date: **15 September 2016**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **RESPONSE TO THE FIRST REPORT OF THE EDUCATION
SELECT COMMITTEE 2016/17 - THE EDUCATION LANDSCAPE
IN BROMLEY**

Contact Officer: Philippa Gibbs, Democratic Services Officer
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Chief Officer: Director of Corporate Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

To report responses to the recommendations made by the Education Select Committee at its first meeting held on 25 May 2016.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Education Select Committee note the responses to the recommendations made by the Committee that have been received to date.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable:
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Excellent Council
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: 2016/17 Budget – Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £335,590
 5. Source of funding: N/A
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 8 posts (7.27fte)
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All users of Education Services in the Borough
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Education Select Committee held its first meeting on 25 May 2016 and considered “The Education Landscape in Bromley”.
- 3.2 The purpose of the inquiry was to examine what role the Council would have in education once all maintained schools had become academies.
- 3.3 The report is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 3.4 The Education Portfolio Holder and Director have made the following responses to the recommendations:
- 3.4.1 Recommendation 2.2: That the Council make representations to the Department for Education to strengthen the ‘*duty to co-operate*’ of other parts of the education sector so as to enable the Local Authority fulfil its statutory responsibilities.

Comment from The Portfolio Holder for Education and Director of Education: The Education Department is working with partners to establish a Schools Partnership Board (SPB) and this will be the forum to ensure that all schools and academies work in full cooperation in the best interests of all Bromley’s children.

- 3.4.2 Recommendation 2.3: That the Council make representations to the Department for Education that when an authority reaches a position whereby a substantial majority of schools are academies that a ‘critical mass’ has been reached and that the remaining schools be required to convert.

Comment from The Portfolio Holder for Education and Director of Education: This proposal is signalled in the White Paper ‘Educational Excellence Everywhere’, published March 2016. We await the new Secretary of State’s views; in the meantime education officers are working closely with the DfE and RSC colleagues on ensuring that all our schools’ academy plans come to fruition.

- 3.4.3 Recommendation 2.4: That the Portfolio Holder for Education establishes the Government’s intentions regarding admission criteria for church schools in order to consider resuming discussions with the Catholic Archdiocese for Southwark with a view to the provision of a secondary school.

Comment from The Portfolio Holder for Education and Director of Education: The Portfolio Holder will seek a meeting with the relevant officials and report back to the Select Committee. However, it must be recognised that all Basic Need funding has been allocated and the only funding stream available to build a new secondary school is via the Free School route.

- 3.4.4 Recommendation 2.7: That the Portfolio Holder for Education considers how the role of the Council as a corporate parent might be strengthened so as to improve the education outcomes for Children Looked After.

Comment from The Portfolio Holder for Education and Director of Education: This recommendation is intrinsic to the work of The Children’s Service Improvement Governance Board; to be found within the Children’s Services Improvement Plan.

- 3.4.5 Recommendation 2.8 That the Education Department considers whether there is scope for cooperation in the field of SEN provision with Bromley College of Further and Higher Education.

Comment from The Portfolio Holder for Education and Director of Education: There is currently a very close working relationship/partnership between Bromley SEND Services and Bromley College. Examples of the partnership in action are as follows:

- the development of suitable courses for young people with complex needs, ensuring young people with SEND who wish to continue their studies can remain in borough and continue to ensure the preparation for adulthood developing independence and resilience to live and work in the community;
- SEND Services and Preparing for Adulthood Team have and continue to provide training and support to the college as the college has expanded to meet more diverse and complex needs;
- The SEN Managers have also worked closely with the college led multi-academy trust to support their contracting to deliver the provision for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs in the borough.
Bromley Education Department will continue to seek opportunities for further partnership work with Bromley College of Further Education across the whole of SEND and in particular with preparing for adulthood.

3.4.6 Recommendation 2.9 That the Portfolio Holder and the Director of Education prepare a staffing structure for consideration by the Education Select Committee at its September 2016 meeting.

Comment from The Portfolio Holder for Education and Director of Education: The Director is reshaping the school improvement service in order to establish and service the schools partnership board and also develop closer oversight of safeguarding in schools.

3.4.7 Recommendation 2.10 That the Portfolio Holder report back to the Education Select Committee on which services currently sold by the Education Department would be economically viable and sustainable once the future role and structure of the Department is decided.

Comment from The Portfolio Holder for Education and Director of Education: It is agreed that the Portfolio Holder will report back to the Select Committee once any review has been undertaken. However, in light of recommendation 2.1 and the response in 2.10, we cannot provide a comprehensive answer at this time.

3.4.8 Recommendation 2.11 That the Council explores what further co-operation could be undertaken with the Bromley College of Further and Higher Education in helping people into work and acquiring skills for employment.

Comment from The Portfolio Holder for Education and Director of Education: The Department values its relationship with Bromley College and considers it an important partner. The Department is also very keen to focus on ensuring post sixteen education and reducing the gap between high and under-performing students. All of these strands of work, together with helping people into employment, can be better achieved by increasing and maintain cooperation between our organisations.

3.5 The Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation has made the following responses to the recommendations:

3.5.1 Recommendation 2.5: That the Council notes the urgent need to plan and provide for between 30 and 35 additional forms of entry for secondary education by 2021 and recommends that the

Development Control Committee, through the Local Plan, ensures that there are sufficient sites to ensure this can be achieved.

Comment from The Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation: I believe the new local plan as drafted includes sufficient sites for identified school needs.

The Development Control Committee will consider the First Report of the Education Select Committee at its meeting on 6th September 2016.

3.5.2 Recommendation 2.6: That the Development Control Committee be requested to consider how funding from the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy could be used for education purposes.

Comment from The Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation: there are rules about the use of CIL. If the monies can be used for education then this will doubtless be considered alongside other necessities.

The Development Control Committee will consider the First Report of the Education Select Committee at its meeting on 6th September 2016.

3.5.3 Recommendation 2.12 That the Master Plan for Biggin Hill be expedited to enable an Academy for Aeronautical, Engineering and Motor Vehicles to be established at the Airport by Bromley College of Further and Higher Education.

Comment from The Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation: We are progressing the academy at Biggin Hill. There are many issues to be resolved including site ownership.

3.6 The Executive will consider the report at its meeting on 14 September 2016 and a verbal update will be provided to Members at the meeting.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Financial Implications, Legal Implications, Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Minutes of the Education Select Committee – 25 May 2016