

**EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19 JULY 2017**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Executive Summary**

Members may wish to consider if the current terms of membership for the Education Scrutiny Committee (as attached in appendix 1) should be reviewed, particularly under the following areas:

**1. A review of Membership**

1. Should the membership be broadened to also include:

- representation from the Further Education Sector
- representation from the Strategic Schools Partnership Board
- representation from Ofsted

***Co-option of members***

Should the Regional Schools Commissioner be invited to be a co-opted to the Committee for specific areas of work to act as the link to local schools and academies?

**2. The role and purpose of the Education Scrutiny Committee**

Should the first point of focus under the specific role of the Education Scrutiny Committee be *to assist the Council in its role of championing good educational outcomes for children and young people?*

**RECOMMENDATION**

**The Committee is asked to consider and agree areas to update the current terms of reference and to refer proposed amendments to the Audit and Governance Committee.**

## **APPENDIX 1: Education Scrutiny Committee –Terms of Reference**

### **General role of scrutiny committees**

Within their specific terms, each scrutiny committee may:

- i. establish their own working groups in order to explore issues further;
- ii. review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- iii. consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants;
- iv. make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or the Cabinet in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- v. conduct, as appropriate, any research, community or other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- vi. consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- vii. question members of the Cabinet, ordinary committees and officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting Oxfordshire or about their decisions;
- viii. report annually to full Council on their work and make recommendations for future work programmes as appropriate;

### **Specific role of the Education Scrutiny Committee**

The Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have a membership of 7 county councillors and 4 co-opted members. The county councillor membership will be politically proportional to the membership of the Council. The terms of reference of the Committee will be:

- i. To focus on the following key areas:
  - a. The work of the Strategic Schools Partnership Board providing a two way relationship with the Board which oversees the education strategy, and including review of the annual report of the Board;
  - b. Constructive challenge on performance issues highlighting issues where the Committee can support the improvement dialogue;

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- c. Reviewing the Council's education functions including early years, school improvement? Special Education Needs and school place planning;
  - d. Reviewing the progress of, and any issues emanating from, the School Organisation Stakeholder Group with regard to admissions patterns and Arrangements;
  - e. Reviewing issues raised by the Schools Forum.
- ii. To assist the Council in its role of championing good educational outcomes for Oxfordshire's children and young people;
  - iii. To provide a challenge to schools,academies and Multi Academy Trusts to hold them to account for their academic performance;
  - iv. To promote joined up working across organisations in the education sector within Oxfordshire;
  - v. To review the bigger picture affecting academic achievement in the county so as to facilitate the achievement of good outcomes;
  - vi. To represent the community of Oxfordshire in the development of academic achievement across the county, including responding to formal consultations and participating in inter-agency discussions;
  - vii. To contribute to the development of educational policy in the county;