

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**PUBLIC REPORT**

Report to:	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS JOINTLY WITH THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR PEOPLE
Report of: Date of Decision:	Executive Director for Education 22 July 2016
SUBJECT:	BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
Key Decision: No	Relevant Forward Plan Ref: N/A
If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)	Chief Executive approved <input type="checkbox"/> O&S Chairman approved <input type="checkbox"/>
Relevant Cabinet Member(s) or Relevant Executive Member(s):	Cllr Brigid Jones - Children, Families & Schools
Relevant O&S Chairman:	Cllr Susan Barnett - Schools, Children and Families
Wards affected:	All

1. Purpose of report:
1.1 This report outlines proposals for additional payment to the Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP).
1.2. The private report makes recommendations for the award of additional payment based on a business case, which reflects the ongoing support required by maintained schools identified as needing support for 2016/17.

2. Decision(s) recommended:
That the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools jointly with the Strategic Director for People:
2.1 Note the contents of this report

Lead Contact Officer(s):	Colin Diamond, Executive Director for Education
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3.	Consultation
3.1	<p>Consultation should include those that have an interest in the decisions recommended</p> <p><u>Internal</u></p> <p>A Business Case was presented to the Leader, the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools, the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director for People on 9 May 2016 who agreed that the proposal may go forward for an Executive decision. Officers from Legal and Democratic Services, City Finance and Procurement have been involved in the preparation of this report.</p>
3.2	<p><u>External</u></p> <p>The Birmingham Education Partnership produced the business case, based on their review of capacity and the demands of the Birmingham maintained schools for their school improvement services for 2016/17.</p>
4.	Compliance Issues:
4.1	<p><u>Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?</u></p> <p>The additional work identified in the business case supports the Council Business Plan and Budget 2016+ strategic objective of safety and opportunity for all children. This proposal is an increase in the value of the existing £1.8m per year Council contract with BEP for school improvement, originally awarded 1st September 2015 for a period of 3 years.</p> <p>The contract is monitored via a termly Contract Management Group (CMG) which includes Quality Assurance work of BEP activity (which will be undertaken in June/July 2016).</p> <p>The contract details all the compliance, outcome and outputs expected which are monitored via CMG (which is chaired by the Executive Director for Education).</p> <p>Appendix 1 includes a report to the Audit Committee (21 June 2016), outlining the current state of play between the Council/BEP and summarising how we are making progress, meeting the requirements of the contract and how the Council is managing any risks associated with BEP delivery whilst at the same time ensuring value for money.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Financial Implications</u></p> <p>Subject to Cabinet approval on the 26th July 2016 (as part of the Period 2 corporate budget monitoring report), funding for this additional work has been earmarked from the General Policy contingency for 2016/17 only.</p>
4.3	<p><u>Legal Implications</u></p> <p>This report exercises functions pursuant to section 13A of the Education Act 1996 whereby the local authority must ensure that its relevant education functions are</p>

exercised with a view to promoting high standards, ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and training; and promoting the fulfilment of learning potential by every child and young person in the area. Pursuant to section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 the local authority has the power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions.

4.4 Public Sector Equality Duty

An initial equality screening has been carried out. The school improvement support provided by BEP is available to all schools and is targeted, in particular, to the most vulnerable schools, for example those in special measures or requiring improvement. No adverse equality impacts will arise from the application of this support. The greater clarity and strengthening of school improvement support will be a direct benefit to the most vulnerable learners in the city.

5. Relevant background/chronology of key events:

- 5.1 Following Trojan Horse, the Council was required to produce an improvement plan to address the serious weaknesses exposed in its custodianship of education.
- The Leader, the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools, the Chief Executive, the Strategic Director for People and the Education Commissioner approved the Education and Schools Strategy & Improvement Plan on 1 December 2014 and it was subsequently approved by Cabinet in March 2015.
- 5.2 A key workstream of the 2015/16 plan was to strengthen the way the Council discharges its duties to vulnerable schools as set out in the statutory Schools Causing Concern guidance. The Education Commissioner supported the proposal that the delivery of these duties should be commissioned from BEP. Twenty years of international evidence supports the view that the best, most sustainable form of school improvement is where strong schools support weaker ones. Council officers, the Deputy Education Commissioner and BEP representatives worked from late 2014 to get the contract in place to commence on 1 September 2015. The early signs are that BEP has started its work strongly for the Council, having visited 87% of maintained schools. The formal contract monitoring is now in place and by the end of the school year in July 2016 the Council will have a full picture of BEP's first year in operation.
- 5.3 Now BEP have been up and running for 9 months, they have been able to review the demand for school improvement and identified that the £1.8m for this year will be insufficient to provide adequate support to the maintained schools identified.
- 5.4 The biggest influence on the positive changes to the identified schools has been the result of BEP engagement. This has improved the knowledge of leadership and management capacity in schools across Birmingham and the validation of the way that this links to school vulnerability.

6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):

- 6.1 Procurement of another service provider. As BEP has been undertaking this service for 9 months of a 3 year contract, there would be a disruption in service delivery to engage another provider.

7. Reasons for Decision(s):
<p>7.1 To enable BEP to undertake their school improvement duties under the contract due to the demand exceeding their capacity to deliver within the original £1.8m per annum. 2016/17 funds are therefore required for BEP to engage effectively with the 78 schools currently identified as requiring support in order to achieve the contractual outcomes.</p>

Signatures	<u>Date</u>
<p>Councillor Brigid Jones Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Schools</p> <p>Peter Hay Strategic Director for People</p>	

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:
<p>1. Cabinet report 16th March 2015 – Education Strategy and Improvement Plan – Next Steps</p> <p>2. Schools Causing Concern – Intervening in failing, underperforming and coasting schools, statutory guidance for local authorities and RSCs – March 2016</p>

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):
<p>1. BEP Audit Committee Report 21 June 2016.</p>

Report Version	V5	Dated	19 July 2016
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