

Public Accounts Committee request to change the Schools Forum Terms of Reference

1. Purpose of the Report

To consider the recommendation made by the Public Accounts Committee to update the Forum's Terms of Reference on accountability.

2 Recommendations

The Forum agree to the following being added to the Terms of Reference

“That members will feedback any important business discussed by the Forum that effects all schools to there collaboratives or sector strategic (if they are members) meetings”

3. Background

- 3.1** In the Autumn term the Public Accounts Committee undertook a review of the work of the Forum. These type of reviews are not unusual and it is part of the committees remit to select particular areas to consider.
- 3.2** The committee started the review by setting Key Lines of Enquires, and officers were asked to provide written answers to a variety of questions. This was followed up by a meeting of the committee, whereby the Chair and Vice Chair of the Forum were asked to attend and further questioned about the Forum's work.
- 3.3** Finally in December the committee produced a report together with a list of recommendations. Officers responded to these recommendations and they were agreed by the Mayor and Cabinet agreed on 14 April. The report to Mayor and Cabinet is attached in Appendix A.
- 3.4** The Forum have previously been provided with a copy of the report and it's recommendations at it's meeting on 21 January 2010.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1** One of the recommendations concerned changing the Terms of Reference of the Forum. These are attached in Appendix B. The Public Accounts Committee asked that they should be expanded to

include mention of accountability (e.g. To ensure that all Members of the Forum provide adequate feedback to their constituents in order that all Headteachers and Governors in the borough are well-informed about the Forum's role and work).

4.2 This is not seen as an onerous duty on Forum members but to formalize something that is already taking place.

4.3 It is suggested that following is inserted in the terms of reference

“That members will feedback any important business discussed by the Forum that effects all schools to there collaboratives or sector strategic (if they are members) meetings”

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