

Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

Tuesday 16 November 2021

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Membership

Councillor Peter Babudu (Chair)
Councillor William Hougbo (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Radha Burgess
Councillor Karl Eastham
Councillor Nick Johnson
Councillor Eleanor Kerslake
Councillor Michael Situ
Martin Brecknell (Co-opted member)
Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer (Co-opted member)
Marcin Jagodzinski (Co-opted member)
Mannah Kargbo (Co-opted member)

Reserves

Councillor Humaira Ali
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Councillor Maggie Browning
Councillor James Coldwell
Councillor Richard Leeming
Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Sirajul Islam

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Contact

Amit Alva on email: amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Eleanor Kelly

Chief Executive

Date: 8 November 2021



Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

Tuesday 16 November 2021
7.00 pm
Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
	PART A OPEN BUSINESS	
1.	APOLOGIES	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT	
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear working days of the meeting.	
3.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS.	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
4.	MINUTES	1 - 14
	To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2021, 17 March 2021 and 20 April 2021 (To follow).	

Item No.	Title	Page No.
5.	SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) - OVERVIEW	
	<p>To hear from Nicky, Parent and Chair of Southwark Independent Voice, a parent-led volunteer organisation working to share information and resources to improve the life of individuals with SEND living in Southwark.</p> <p>To hear from Simon Eccles, Executive Head teacher, Spa Education Trust. An introduction to Spa Schools and its specialist services.</p> <p>To receive a report from Yvonne Ely, Head of SEN & Inclusion, Children's and Adults' Services on Special Educational needs and Disability (SEND): (Report to follow)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional overview of SEND processes and their complexities within Southwark. • Provision for children with SEND, including NHS community-based paediatric referrals. • Overview of Southwark's Local Offer. 	
6.	CABINET RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMISSION: EDUCATION: CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC	15 - 28
	<p>To consider the Cabinet Response to the report of the Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission on Education: Children's Experience and Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic</p>	
7.	PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME 2021-22	29 - 35
	<p>To note the proposed work programme for 2021-2022 and to consider the inclusion of any additional items / amendments to the work programme.</p> <p>DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER OPEN ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING.</p>	

Date: 8 November 2021



Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission held on Wednesday 29 September 2021 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Babudu (Chair)
Councillor William Hougbo(Vice-Chair)
Councillor Radha Burgess
Councillor Karl Eastham
Councillor Michael Situ
Martin Brecknell (Co-opted member)
Marcin Jagodzinski (Co-opted member)

OFFICER
SUPPORT: Amit Alva, Scrutiny Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nick Johnson and Councillor Eleanor Kerlake, Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer (Co-opted member) and Mannah Kargbo (Co-opted member).

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no items of business which the Chair deemed urgent.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS.

There were no disclosure of interests and dispensations.

4. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting from the previous meeting on 19 July 2021 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

5. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) PROVISION - SCRUTINY REVIEW

The commission received a slide presentation from Jemima Rhys-Evans, Director of London South Teaching School Hub and Will Cannock, Head of Inclusion, Special Educational Needs Coordinator, Charles Dickens Primary School. The commission heard from Will on the SEND provision at Charles Dickens Primary School where a graduated approach is followed to assess, plan, do and review. SEND provisions are implemented in three waves, Universal, Targeted and Specialist based on four areas of need, those being Cognition and Learning, Communication and Interaction, Social, emotional and mental health and lastly Sensory/Physical.

The commission also heard about the barriers to high-quality SEND provision which mainly revolved around lack of funding, specialist support and access to external services. Jemima introduced the best practices in SEND provision to the commission which composed of creating positive and supportive environments and ongoing, holistic understanding of pupil needs by engaging with their families. In addition, high quality teaching is complemented by carefully selected one-to-one and small-group interventions for pupils and finally, working effectively with teaching assistants helps improve quality SEND provision. The commission understood that the emerging priorities for SEND provision needs to be mainly focused on developing pro-active strategies to develop expertise by supporting and engaging with the schools in need whilst also encouraging and incentivizing them to work collaboratively and to engage with evidence-informed practice.

Jemima and Will then answered questions from the commission on the following points:

- Networking and linking up between Council, external agencies and schools to provide specialist support as mentioned in the third wave of support.
- Approach to barriers such as shortage of expertise and equality of access to SEND provisions across families with lack of expertise.

The commission learned that the services in the third wave of special support are the most time consuming and financially taxing for the schools who need to focus on Universal and Targeted waves of support i.e. waves one and two, to ensure that children don't have to wait long periods of time without getting any support, these are services in the form community paediatricians, NHS services- speech & language therapy and occupational therapy.

The commission also understood that there is a need for central co-ordination Of access to SEND services to bridge the gap to schools who have issues accessing services and families who lack expertise. The commission also learned that there are cultural barriers to understanding, accepting and dealing with SEND across the diverse backgrounds in Southwark, schools are developing in-house Family Liaison Services for early help who work directly with families to help them better understand and gain access to the support their children might need.

The commission also heard that COVID had hindered some of the advertising and printing of booklets for distribution on services, dissemination information on these services are now done online. On issues of schools working in isolation or in a vacuum, the commission learnt that resource bases do exist in special schools and expertise in local authority but are difficult to access, bringing schools together through Education and Healthcare Plan (EHCP) by the local authority can help with the sharing of expertise.

On Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) the commission heard a diagnosis of ASD for a child doesn't automatically make them eligible for additional support or guarantee specialist support through EHCP. As the numbers of students with ASD keep growing there is a need to invest in Autism support networks in Southwark.

Jemima explained to the commission that current strategies need to be reviewed, current funding methods for schools need to be changed to prepaid so schools are ready with the support for the child when as soon as it has been identified rather than traditional means of EHCP applications which mean a year long wait for support; schools end up making cuts elsewhere to provide the support to the child right away during that one year period.

The commission then received a report from Nina Dohel, Director of Education at Southwark Council on SEND. The commission learned that there has been a growing and continuous rise in SEND entitlement for families and children which has reached a crisis point nationally, the onus of these provisions now heavily relies on the education system compared to the past where it was spread across the health system, the social care system and the education system.

Nina explained to the commission that we have over 8000 children and young people with special needs that are on SEND support without EHCPs and over two and half thousand children under EHCP since SEND reforms in 2014 this number has been gradually increasing and there are issues of the low levels of funding amongst schools and local authorities. Southwark information advisory service works with disadvantaged families across the borough, however resources are limited and stretched across the services. Southwark council has constantly been building capacity for specialist provisions, joining up strategies for providing investment to mitigate that escalation of Universal need at an early stage and also have provisions for need at higher ages of 16-25. In addition the council is also working with local communities, businesses and local level trainers to get young people with SEND work experience, apprenticeships and meaningful employment which a big challenge for employers.

On the funding approach to SEND provisions for schools the commission learned that there is spending deficit of £20m and one of the measures taken to receive more value from funding is focusing on the early interventions and diagnostics to prevent the escalation of needs at a later stage. The commission also learned that the children on EHCP are allocated £6000 in the funding pot and further top-ups are need based, the council is also looking at ways of pooling funding together across schools for the same needs, such as speech and language therapy. The commission also learned that every school has a SEN co-ordinator and also that teachers have access to training from the teaching school, local authority, online training and in person training, in addition specialist teams also visit schools to work alongside teachers for SEND support.

The commission received an address from Roger Lynch, SEND Operator and Practitioner. Roger explained to the commission that there are fundamental communication issues between the Southwark council and parents of children with SEND, children developing SEND at later ages of 12-13 struggle to get support. Roger also explained to the commission the urgent need for specialist resources in Southwark, in addition to the need to co-ordinate funding efforts between schools, council and health and the funding strategy to be reviewed. Roger also informed the commission that a parent led group called empowering parents are being led by the law centre to take legal action against council over processes around SEND.

6. FUTURE OF CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROVISION IN SOUTHWARK - PUPIL PLACES

The commission next heard from Nina again on Pupil Places: Looking at shortfalls in primary pupil numbers across the borough. The commission understood that pupil numbers are a London wide issue and many schools across London will have to close as a result, head teachers and officers are coming together to present the projections to the public, based on which decisions will be made by Local Authorities. The reasons for the shortfall have been attributed to a declining birth-rate and impact from leaving the European Union. Nina also explained that conversations are on-going around amalgamations and federations of some of these schools. Impacts of school closures would be felt across the school system including multi academy trusts and voluntary aided schools, amalgamation of schools would be based on geographical proximity.

7. FUTURE OF WORK AND ENTERPRISE IN SOUTHWARK - ADULT RETRAINING

Report noted by the commission.

8. PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME 2021-22

The commission agreed that the work plan for the commission will be reviewed with the Chair, Vice-Chair and officer support to focus on specific topics given the limited number of meetings left in the Council year.

9. CABINET RESPONSE TO THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMISSION: REVIEW OF APPROACH TO EQUALITY AND ADOPTION OF THE EQUALITY FRAMEWORK

Cabinet response noted by the commission.

10. CABINET RESPONSE TO THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMISSION: LOCAL ECONOMY, REVITALISING SOUTHWARK'S HIGH STREETS AND TOWN CENTRES

Cabinet response noted by the commission.

Meeting ended at 9.32pm

CHAIR:

DATED:



Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission held on Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 6.30 pm (Online/Virtual meeting).

PRESENT:	Councillor Peter Babudu (Chair) Councillor Humaira Ali (Reserve) Councillor Radha Burgess (Reserve) Councillor Eleanor Kerslake Councillor Richard Leeming Councillor Michael Situ Martin Brecknell Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer Nicole Gordon
OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:	Councillor Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education Councillor Alice Macdonald, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Neighbourhoods
OFFICER SUPPORT:	Everton Roberts, Head of Overview and Scrutiny (Acting)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, Karl Eastham and Eliza Mann.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no late items.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 26 October 2020, 27 January 2021 and 22 February 2021 be approved as correct records.

5. SOUTHWARK'S REFRESHED PLANS FOR YOUTH PROVISION IN SOUTHWARK

The commission received an update from Councillor Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education in respect of the refreshed plans for youth provision in Southwark.

Councillor Ali highlighted the follow key developments in respect of youth:

- The establishment of a new Youth Parliament
- New Sure Start for Teenagers
- Relaunch of the Positive Futures Fund
- The establishment of a new officer and Member group to oversee new developments in relation to Youth.

Questions and discussion were held around the following areas:

- The financial limit set around Youth Parliament deciding where the positive future fund goes.
- The current percentage of young people benefiting from the current youth plan and estimated percentage of young people that will benefit under the new plan.
- The future of youth clubs
- Making the Southwark Youth offer more accessible

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMISSIONS SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF EXCLUSIONS AND ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

Councillor Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education informed the commission that a head teacher and lead member task and finish group had been established to look at findings from the exclusions report, and ideas from the conference around 'keeping children in school'. It was explained that due to the lockdown and schools being closed, the scheduled meetings had to be cancelled. This would be picked up again now that schools had re-opened. Councillor Babudu, chair of the commission would be invited to the first meeting.

The commission also heard from Jenny Brennan, Assistant Director of Family, Early Help and Youth Justice.

Jenny advised that permanent exclusions had significantly reduced. There was a peak of 50 in Southwark Schools in 2017/18, down to 39 in 2018/19 and the indicative data for 2019/20 was 11 (based on 2 terms worth of data).

Jenny explained that the latest published DfE data related to 2018/19 school year, but there was also census data from 2019/20 which was being reviewed by her team. Jenny highlighted that an area of concern was the rate of permanent exclusions for black Caribbean children which was 1.5 times higher than the rate for white British children. The rate for mixed white and black Caribbean children was slightly higher at a rate of 1.1 times. It was this level of analysis that her team were undertaking to try and understand the reasons for this. As the overall numbers were quite small it was possible to look at the individual cases.

In terms of fixed period exclusions, Jenny reported that there was a notable difference between the ethnicity of pupils being given permanent exclusions compared to fixed period exclusions with an overall highest rate of fixed period exclusions being given to black pupils, a rate of 5.22, and second highest rate being mixed ethnicity children at a rate of 4.83, and white children at a rate of 3.9. Jenny expressed that this was of concern. Jenny hypothesised that a reduction in permanent exclusions may have led to fixed period exclusion rates going up in the short term. The data was ready to be shared with schools, and head teachers invited to review the data and the policies within their schools around exclusions.

Nina Dohel, Director of Education informed the commission that the detailed analysis would also be considered by the task and finish group with a view to looking at the changing and shifting trends to feed into the longer term strategy around how the council works with schools with the goal of eliminating exclusions.

The commission asked questions around the following:

- The role of the task and finish group in relation to partnership working with schools
- Work around home schooling and identifying off-rolling
- The views of young people of who have been excluded being incorporated into the strategy.

Nina informed the commission that there would possibly be an increase in home schooling where some families had had a positive experience with home schooling and would like that to continue. Nina stressed that there must not be an increase in home schooling due to off-rolling. Nina reported that an additional resource had been obtained through the budget challenge process, which would be used to provide additional resource to the growing homeschool sector, and also to work with family early help to look forensically at where the council thinks/can evidence occurrences of off-rolling.

In terms of the role of the task and finish group, Nina hoped to see a school led strategy around the approach to inclusion and alternative provision. The thrust of the task and finish group was to come up with a new way of looking at how to make sure that children and young people are accessing the education that they need. Nina indicated that terms of reference were being developed for the task and finish group with a focus on being really clear of what the outputs need to be.

Councillor Ali confirmed that young people's voices will inform the strategy.

7. THE COUNCIL'S WORK TO SUPPORT CARE LEAVERS VIA A DEDICATED TRUST AND OTHER PRE-EXISTING CHANNELS

The commission received an update from Councillor Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education in respect of children in care.

Councillor Ali informed the commission that the council had been working with the charity 'Catch 22' to reshape the care offer with a view to setting up a Trust to be led by young people. Councillor Ali explained that the care leavers had indicated that they did not want a new trust and had a preference to stay with the Council. Care leavers were requesting a significant increase in access to employment opportunities and housing, the council was therefore focusing on this.

Councillor Ali informed the meeting that consultation had been undertaken with children in care and care leavers about service provision throughout Covid. The council also sought their thoughts about Black Lives Matter and Southwark Stands Together. Feedback from the consultation was incorporated into Southwark Stands Together programme and the council's response to Covid.

An issue that came through in the consultation discussions was that young people felt quite isolated throughout the pandemic and needed more support. An additional £90,000 had been allocated to foster carers to help support children throughout the pandemic.

8. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S SEND EDUCATION PROVISION STRATEGY

The commission received an update from Councillor Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education in respect of SEND provision.

Councillor Ali reported that the council had opened up a new school in September in the Camberwell area which catered for both primary and secondary school pupils and a college opened in Newington Ward.

An additional £500,000 had been put aside in the council budget for assessments

for Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs). £500,000 had also been set aside for transport provision.

Nina Dohel informed the commission that a briefing note had been produced in response to questions raised ahead of the meeting. This would be circulated to members of the commission.

Nina informed the commission that the previous SEND strategy was coming to an end. One of the pillars around the strategy was around Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and the department was just completing a review of ASD provision, once complete this would feed into the refresh of the strategy.

Questions were raised around the following by commission members:

- A commission member highlighted that the human rights commission was expected to shortly release the findings of their inquiry into the treatment of disabled children in schools, particularly in relation to potentially harmful restraint, isolation booths and other forms of isolation. The commission member enquired as to whether the council held any information on the use of these techniques in Southwark schools [special schools, mainstream schools and mainstream post 16 settings] and whether any research had been undertaken on the impact of such techniques on children's mental health and education. It was suggested that senior officers come back to the committee once the inquiry was published.
- Keeping children with SEND in mainstream education where possible so that they can receive education alongside their peers, and how it will be funded.
- The accountability of schools for reporting SEND spend to school governors and transparency in this area / annual reports being published on school websites.

In responding to the question relating to keeping children in mainstream education, Councillor Ali explained that it was a matter for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which had been the cause of consternation [how support for SEND was funded and money available], the council was spending money but was not receiving it back from the government. Councillor Ali further explained that where mainstream schools had SEND pupils, that this was supported, but that there were also brand new state of the art schools which had been purpose built for children with autism. Councillor Ali expressed that there was a mix of options and it was about giving parents and pupils' choice.

In relation to the question on restraint, Nina explained that there was no duty on schools to report it or for the local authority to collect that information, however just like any other form of discrimination, or unacceptable incidents, the school should be recording incidences for their own purposes and report that to the governor's or board. Nina further explained that there were very clear guidelines on restraint,

this was set out in the 'keeping children safe in education' safeguarding document. Nina expressed that whilst she could not say that it does not happen, Southwark special schools are second to none and leaders in their field were acutely aware of all issues around restraint, including the impact on young people.

In relation to question around funding for schools, Nina explained that funding for schools was very complex. Nina stressed that there was a national crisis around funding for SEND, which has not been addressed by the DfE. Southwark had been at the forefront of raising the issue with DfE. Nina reported that there had been a slight increase in funding, but it was not keeping pace with the scale of numbers and need.

Nina explained that because Southwark has excellent assessment professionals in the health and education sector, more and more children at a younger age were being identified as having more and more complex needs. The default position was that for as long and as far as possible that children stay in mainstream schools, and that would be supported. Only where there is the need for specialised education, would a pupil come out of the mainstream setting, with an aim to keep the child within the borough. This would not be possible in all cases due to the needs of some children being so specialised, which may require residential placements. Nina indicated that these placements came at an extremely high cost, but the financial provision was not being made for that.

In relation to the reporting of SEND spend, Nina explained that schools have been spending more money than they have been allocated for SEND provision. In terms of accountability the information on spend should be being reported to Governor's and being included in the minutes. Anybody could request to inspect governor minutes and would be able to see what the reporting mechanisms were.

9. PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCES AND EDUCATION THROUGH COVID

Councillor Peter Babudu, Chair of the Commission outlined the commission's draft recommendations which had been informed by issues that had emerged from the commission's work throughout the year in relation to the pandemic and resultant lockdown. The chair highlighted the following areas

- The mental health of school children, particularly primary school children and what support could be provided in schools.
- Supporting young people's wellbeing including providing early access to public spaces as they reopen
- The council advocating an evidenced based informed approach to helping young people catch up
- Role of the council supporting schools in relation to digital access

Jenny Brennan informed the commission that mental health support was being delivered through a multi-agency approach, such as the public health nurse,

running wellbeing sessions which could be accessed by parents and children, the NEST work being undertaken with parents, Early help, CAMHS and child wellbeing practitioners. Services could be accessed at primary and secondary school, and community as not every child was attending school. There was also the back to school email and Back to School working group (a multi-agency group) that had been meeting weekly since May.

The chair informed the meeting that the commission was due to hear further evidence from young people at the next meeting, and following that would seek to finalise the commission's recommendations to cabinet.

10. COUNCIL'S ACTION PLAN FOR HIGH STREETS AND TOWN CENTRES - PROGRESS UPDATE

The commission received a progress update from Councillor Alice Macdonald, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Neighbourhoods in respect of the council's action plan for high streets and town centres. The commission also heard from Danny Edwards, Strategy and Partnerships Manager.

Councillor Macdonald informed the commission that the action plan was in the process of being developed. Councillor Macdonald reported the council was working on a number of themes, one of which was around business support, increased growth and community wealth building. The council was also looking at how high streets could be shaped to best effect, through planning policies, regeneration, working with communities, celebrating the diversity of the high street through cultural activities, transport and movement and look and feel of high streets.

Work on preparation of the plan was ongoing and It was anticipated that the plan which was in early draft form could be given wider circulation within a couple of months.

Questions, discussion and points were made around the following:

- Turnaround of letting out shops and business premises
- Sustainable freight and the high street, in particular traffic interventions and impact on the high street
- Taking best practices happening within different parts of the borough, to be included as part of the core framework approach to high streets
- Community renewal fund
- Short term support on supporting re-opening of businesses
- Providing opportunities for businesses to test new locations in other parts of the borough
- Low line project (animating the railway infrastructure and use of derelict arches)
- Work being undertaken with other authorities in connection with high streets

In respect of lettings, Councillor Macdonald informed the commission that there was a monitoring plan in place of what shops were vacant and this would be done on a continual basis.

11. PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF HIGH STREETS AND TOWN CENTRES

The commission received feedback from Councillor Alice Macdonald, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Neighbourhoods on the commission's preliminary draft recommendations.

Councillor Macdonald confirmed with the commission that a number of the preliminary recommendations were already being covered within in the work the council was doing, including mapping, baselining and the development of a community wealth building approach.

Councillor Macdonald referenced and directed the commission to the new corporate asset management plan agreed by the cabinet in January 2021. In relation to the Creative Compact, Councillor Macdonald informed the commission that a deadline of the end of March had been given by the Arts Council for a response on how the council intended to move forward with the project. There was a re-engagement process being undertaken with the sector to look at how best to use the money, particularly in light of the Southwark Stands Together initiative.

In terms of resourcing, due to there being no definite plans to have future rounds of the High Street Challenge, Councillor Macdonald suggested to the commission that they make a recommendation asking cabinet to explore how specific funding can be made available to support some pilot projects.

In relation to improving digital and physical connections and accessibility to high streets, Councillor Macdonald informed the commission that a Digital Strategy was due to be brought to cabinet.

12. PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF EQUALITIES

The commission received feedback from Councillor Alice Macdonald, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Neighbourhoods on the commission's preliminary draft recommendations. The commission also heard from Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities.

Councillor Macdonald informed the commission that the preliminary recommendations had highlighted a lot of the priorities that the council would be looking at.

In terms of consolidating equalities data, Councillor Macdonald informed the commission that this would be done. The starting point would be to compile the equalities impact assessments in one place for ease of access to the

assessments. A similar initiative had been undertaken by Hackney Council and Southwark would be seeking to emulate that model.

Councillor Macdonald indicated that benchmarking was being undertaken and an annual report around equalities could also be considered.

In terms of the evaluation of current stakeholder groups and interested parties, clarification on the commission's priorities was sought in relation to this. Councillor Macdonald explained that she had tried to establish whether a formal list of stakeholder groups existed due to the number of stakeholder groups that may exist both with formal and informal relationships with the council. In the absence of this, Councillor Macdonald advised that the priority commitment within this area would be with Southwark Stands Together. The council plan commitment was starting with looking at tenant and resident association committees, voluntary and community sector organisations supported by the council and cultural boards.

In terms of establishing closer relationships with business improvement districts, Councillor Macdonald informed the commission that a meeting had taken place with BIDs earlier that week which was a positive first step.

Following further comment and discussion on the evaluation of stakeholder groups, Councillor Macdonald advised the commission that within the equalities framework, guidance would be included on consultation and engagement with different stakeholders.

13. WORK PROGRAMME 2020-21

RESOLVED:

That the work programme as at 17 March 2021 be noted.

The meeting ended at 9.19pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

Item No. 17.	Classification: Open	Date: 19 October 2021	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Response to Cabinet Report of the Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission: Education: Children's Experience and Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education	

FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION

COVID-19 has had a massive impact on all of our lives not least the lives of children and young people who've been hit hard by successive disruption to their education.

I would like to thank Councillor Babudu and his team for their scrutiny and helpful recommendations on this critical issue.

I will also take this opportunity to offer heartfelt thanks to children's services, our frontline and education team, Southwark schools and their staff for operating under such uncertainty and being there for our children and young people when it mattered most.

Thanks are most certainly also due to our children and young people, their parents and guardians who continue to inspire us all with their strength and resilience under difficult circumstances.

The attached report documents our response to the five broad areas of Scrutiny recommendations: mental health, public space, catch up, narrowing the attainment gap and the digital strategy.

Mental health is a huge issue with the pandemic putting psychological strain on many, including our children, young people and vulnerable families. Because this was a council priority prior to the pandemic, we were ready and able to open up our novel free mental health drop-in service in April 2020, coinciding with the start of the first lockdown.

The commission's recommendations to improve our work in this area are welcome. We address them partly through the launch of the Youth New Deal, the extension of drop-in services to secondary and primary schools and more. That said, we ask Scrutiny to recognise that the NHS has clear duties and

responsibilities for meeting the health needs of our residents.

Welcome too are the recommendations on curricular activities and access to public space to which we respond below. We are proud of our cross-council/cross-partner initiative, the *Southwark Summer of Play*. By working with local organisations right across the borough, the council is working to *get children out and about* over the holidays to boost their physical and mental wellbeing and help them reconnect with each other.

The fact that our children and young people suffered so much disruption to their education with so many missing over a year of face-to-face schooling is a key concern for the council. Below is an outline of what is being done.

The education team is working closely with schools on methods employed to narrow the attainment gap brought about by the attainment gap. The recent A Level and GCSE results showed that young people did well in Southwark with record numbers getting grades needed for some of the top universities including the Oxbridge colleges. We also know that the resignation of the education recovery commissioner, Sir Kevan Collins, following the Government's rejection of the proposed £15bn recovery plan, could have drastic consequences for many children who are in danger of being labelled 'Generation Covid'. We are working with schools and partners on best possible solutions and, while we know that we have fantastic schools with capacity, at the time of writing finance remains a concern.

The report also covers our response on digital strategy including the widely publicised Laptops for Learning. A successful collaboration between the Council and the London South Teaching Alliance saw a crowdfund raise £250,000, which when matched by the council raised half a million pounds. This meant that that we could get laptops to 2,600 children and young people so that they could learn during lockdown.

The global pandemic has been a massive challenge but as this report and indeed the original scrutiny commission report show, we had little option but to move fast. In the time it has taken to put the report together and respond we have moved many of the pertinent issues on. The fact that we have great frontline staff and excellent schools and amazing children and young people helps.

However the issue of education attainment in the recovery phase remains an issue that will require more thought and more resource.

The Government let us down on school meals in the holidays and on devices for children and young people from low income homes. So the council stepped in. As the schools open their doors again in September, the council and schools will need a focus on working together to narrow the attainment gap over the new academic year.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Cabinet note the response from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to the 15 June cabinet report from Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission: Education: Children's Experience and Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Cabinet agreed the recommendations as set out in the Cabinet report dated 15 June 2021, which under the Overview and Scrutiny procedure rule 15.3 required the Cabinet to consider and provide a written response to the report within two months.
3. The Commission investigated the impact of COVID-19 on children in respect of education and mental wellbeing. The Commission heard from three headteachers, young people and the Cabinet Member responsible for children, and officers from within the education directorate and community engagement teams.
4. The Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission agreed its report for referral to Cabinet at its meeting held on 20 April 2021 (subject to minor amendments).

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Recommendation 1: The Commission supports the Council's efforts to better support the mental health of children and young people as outlined in submissions to the Commission and the announcements in February's Council Assembly. **The Commission recommends that the Council looks at additional steps to address the expected mental health crisis amongst children and young people**, in particular whether the Council can **support:**

- **the rollout of outreach support from the Nest to primary schools** as well as secondary schools
- **Additional support for peer-led mental health approaches** (e.g. peer counselling and mental health first aid training) in schools

Teachers who seek mental health support, and aid efforts to ensure that teachers do not have any mental health support sought via the school or otherwise flagged on their records.

Response to Recommendation 1

5. We should in the first instance press the health sector to provide more timely and effective support for mental health needs of our children and young people. Historically this has been severely insufficient. The council recognises this need and its exponential growth and has committed considerable resource to investing in supporting good mental health for children and young people. This need was identified and actioned well before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. The rollout of outreach support from the Nest is already underway in Secondary schools and this will soon be extended to primary schools.
7. Through our Improving Mental Health and Resilience in Schools programme there is a well-developed and ongoing suite of support and training for children and staff and range of collaborative initiatives across Southwark schools.
8. 38 Mental Health First Aiders across Southwark schools have been equipped with the skills and confidence to spot the early signs of mental health issues in a young person and guide them towards the support they need. Projects include:
 - i. Wellbeing gardens to create space for mindfulness and reflection;
 - ii. Student leadership programmes;
 - iii. Expert-led training for parents and carers whose young people need more targeted support;
 - iv. 6-week Forest School Project for year 7 students and a summer residential trip to Jamie's Farm for Forest School Alumni; and
 - v. Staff CPD and training including sessions on "trauma-informed schools" and mental health awareness.
9. Most secondary schools have attended project, subject network and Improving Mental Health & Resilience in Schools (IMHARS) Champions meetings, prioritising mental health and wellbeing as part of the "Relationships and Health Education" curriculum and the launch of new Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) curriculum framework and resource bank.
10. We continue to work with external and internal partners and providers, such as the Anna Freud Centre and with children's social care on securing funding for the social workers in schools programme.
11. What is noted in teacher records are a matter for individual school governing bodies to consult upon and agree. The Council encourages and promotes schools to recognise and support the mental health needs of

any staff in schools.

Recommendation 2: The Commission recommends that the Council supports efforts to:

- Ensure young people get early and sufficient access to public spaces as they reopen, particularly libraries
- Agree access to green space in public schools for Southwark's children and more generally ensure young people have sufficient access to green space and outdoor activities
- Provide additional opportunities for extra-curricular activities for children who have missed out on these over the various lockdowns.

Response to Recommendation 2

12. Extra-curricular activities are enormously beneficial for all children and young people in helping to develop social, emotional, physical and academic development. During term time schools have been and will continue to provide breakfast and after school clubs as far as possible.
13. The Council has fully restored its youth clubs offer with full opening hours and at full capacity, with a full programme of activities from the 6 youth clubs it has in operation. Libraries reopened in April and are currently operating six days a week with a view to restoring pre-pandemic opening hours from September (subject to any further COVID-19 requirements). Libraries offer dedicated spaces for study as well as a significant stock of books in each library that are targeted to appeal to young people. A core objective of the service is to make libraries welcoming to young people.
14. Similarly the Council has, as soon as it was able to within the parameters of the Government's pandemic guidelines, reopened its leisure centres and reintroduced programmes such as the Free Swim and Gym scheme. Adventure play facilities have also reopened and the summer programme is being delivered. Officers have been working with sports clubs and organisations to assist them in returning to delivering opportunities for young people to participate in physical activity. The Council will pursue any opportunities to develop activities and initiatives through securing access to green spaces owned by private schools.
15. The Council is delivering a 'Summer of Play' programme for young people during the summer holidays. A working group has been set up with key 'Summer of Play' leads who are meeting regularly to develop the offer. The working group includes staff from the youth service, play service, libraries, culture, sports & physical activity, public health and the communications team. The Programme includes a wide range of activities across the borough and for a wide age group.

16. The Department for Education funded Holiday Activity and Food programme is providing funding for Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2021. The focus of the programme is on children between the ages of 4-16 years, who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM). Eligible children will receive free places in holiday clubs providing healthy meals and enriching activities. Southwark Council received. £1,540,030 to cover the three holiday periods.
17. During summer 2021, Southwark Council are funding the delivery of a large food and cultural holiday programme across the borough.

Recommendation 3: The Commission recommends that the Council advocates for schools to take an evidence-informed approach to any catch-up activity and ensures young people's voices are heard in approaches taken.

The Commission recommends the Council seeks to understand children's concerns that intense catch-up activity over the summer could put further strain on students and should not be done at the expense of providing children with opportunities to take part in additional extracurricular activity. This is particularly important given that children that such social experiences have been missed as a result of the pandemic and would otherwise play an important role in supporting children's mental health and wellbeing.

Response to Recommendation 3

18. We would support this recommendation. It may be helpful for the Commission to engage the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) to carry out a research project for all Southwark schools to gain robust evidence base around catch up that compares Southwark to the National picture.
19. School advisors in the Education Directorate are working with schools to understand gaps for children in their learning and the strategies and activities schools are employing to support recovery.
20. Going forward we should employ methods of hearing directly from young people through the Youth Parliament, New Youth Deal, and working with colleagues in community engagement.
21. Youth Parliament could conduct a survey of young people to gather their impressions of how summer activities either supported the needs of young people or created additional burden by over emphasising lost learning.
22. Year 6 pupils joining Secondary schools in Year 7 for 2021/2 would have missed most of school year as a result of COVID and many did not have their planned transition day, so the commission should explore the impact of COVID-19 on this year group in particular.

23. The Commission should evaluate the work of the Council's mental health offer and its impact on schools and young people and to determine what now needs to happen to support all children and young people in Sothwarks' schools; recognising that mental health provision is a cross council activity and draws on input from different departments and services.

Recommendation 4: The Commission recommends that the Council provide more transparent structures and outputs from its task and finish group focused on narrowing the attainment gap and sharing what works in this area.

Response to Recommendation 4

24. The Council has maintained transparency in each of its commitments and priorities as reference in the Council's now Borough Plan. There is robust governance in place by offices and members.
25. Learning gaps have been identified in a variety of ways and the information used to inform provision, including targeted interventions to address essential learning.
26. Some schools report that learning gaps are less than expected, others report a significant impact on the youngest pupils in terms of language and social skills development. Some headteachers report lower achieving and disadvantaged pupils have seen greater impact of lost learning.
27. Pupils with the biggest learning gaps are largely those who did not engage well with home learning. This could have been for a variety of reasons, including digital poverty, lack of appropriate space or adult support.
28. Pupils have been offered experience in the full range of curriculum subjects, but there has been particular emphasis on mental health and wellbeing and securing the foundational aspects of reading and phonics, writing and maths, since the start of term, as part of the 'recovery' curriculum.
29. Southwark's secondary schools have taken steps to ensure that they have identified any gaps in learning and provided appropriate interventions to address them. Testing and teacher assessment was used to identify both topic areas for revisiting and then individuals for bespoke support.

30. Schools have adapted their curricula to address any learning gaps as necessary and to introduce new knowledge at an appropriate pace. Strategies employed to secure improvement include targeted work, using online learning systems, invited non-vulnerable students onsite to better support their learning, mentoring, parent contracts, and remote learner of the week awards. Pastoral support featured significantly to help students overcome their barriers to learning. Much emphasis was placed on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable students through both in-school and inter-agency support – including providing laptops, home visits, mentoring and Chaplaincy care.

Recommendation 5: The Commission recommends that the Council updates its Digital Strategy and relevant priorities to ensure that households with school-age children have access to high-speed fixed-line or mobile connectivity (and where still relevant, sufficient devices) to enable them to make the most of digital learning approaches. The Commission acknowledges the fantastic efforts of schools and the Council to address immediate access and device needs of students across the borough. However, the pandemic has highlighted an important new front for the Council’s evolving approach to digital inclusion which will need sustained long term focus.

Response to Recommendation 5

31. We are very proud of the work undertaken during the national lockdowns to ensure that all children and young people had access to laptops and access to connections in Southwark.
32. A joint crowdfunding exercise between schools and the Council last year was very successful in providing hardware. This supplemented the diligence of officers across education and social care in maximising government initiatives and in some cases personally delivering equipment to vulnerable pupils.
33. Significant inroads were made into connectivity for home learners during the lockdowns. However, this work must continue to ensure gaps in connectivity are remedied and all children continue to have access to hardware from home.

Technology and Digital Strategy

34. The Council is committed to finalising its’ Technology and Digital Strategy and this is currently scheduled to be put forward for agreement at Cabinet in December 2021.

35. There are six pillars focusing on digital inclusion in the Technology and Digital Strategy, these are:
- i. Affordable Broadband
 - ii. Devices
 - iii. Jobs and Training
 - iv. Digital Skills (Residents)
 - v. Digital Resilience (Businesses)
 - vi. Digital Education (For All)
36. Home schooling had become essential for the majority of families in Southwark. The need for laptops and connectivity had become apparent in the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council's digital team worked on the 'Laptop for Learning' campaign to deliver free broadband connections to 47 digitally excluded families and devices were given to schoolchildren.
37. As part of the digital inclusion work-stream further support to families across the borough is being identified within the six pillars of Technology and Digital Strategy inclusion.

Policy implications

38. Southwark's Borough Plan 2020 - 2022, evolved from the Council's refreshed Council Plan 2018 – 2022. Southwark's Borough Plan provides the Council's response to COVID-19 and presents commitments towards the following areas of focus.
- i. Keeping Southwark safe during COVID-19
 - ii. Tackling health inequalities
 - iii. Southwark Together
 - iv. A great start in life
 - v. Tackling the Climate emergency
 - vi. Thriving neighbourhoods
 - vii. A green and inclusive economy
 - viii. Homes for all
39. The work of the Education Directorate works hand-in-hand with all the said commitments. From keeping education settings safe, environmentally sustainable to being advocates in tackling inequalities to achieve a great start in life.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

40. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, lays out the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day to day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. The council's [Approach to Equality](#) commits the council to ensuring that equality is an integral part of our day to day business.
41. The Council's Education Directorate involves working closely with all relevant stakeholders and partners across the sector and collectively we are committed to upholding the responsibilities towards advocating the Public Sector Equality Duty and complying with the Equalities Act 2010.
42. The PSED enables public bodies to consider the diverse needs of groups and have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. Due regard is about considering the different needs of protected characteristics in relation to the three parts of the duty.
43. The Equalities Act 2010 define the following as protected characteristics; age; disability, gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

44. It is widely acknowledged that the pandemic has had a disproportionate (unequal) impact on the health and education of children and families who have a lower socio-economic status. As described in our response to the Committee's recommendations, we are seeking specific evidence to identify where this impact is with a view to targeting our resources most effectively.
45. Resources have been directly targeted towards children and young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds who were at risk of missing out on food, play or education because of the pandemic. Schools were kept open throughout for vulnerable children, food and play provided during school holidays and laptops provided for those most in need. In addition, the work being undertaken by the Southwark Stands Together work stream with our schools seeks to address racial inequality in education settings in terms of curriculum, staff development, employment opportunities and preparation and inclusion. Our commitment to addressing any attainment gap is reported on within the performance

challenge and we are held to account against that metric quarterly.

Health impact statement

46. Our schools work closely with the local authority and Public Health teams to roll out initiatives and campaigns that address physical and mental health in our children and young people across the borough. Several of these initiatives have been documented throughout this report, such as The Nest, Mental Health First Aiders and IMHARS, focused on supporting the mental health of our children, young people and education staff.
47. In addition, we support staff in maintained schools to access mental health support through Mindapples and other services. The Daily Mile campaign to increase physical activity in Southwark's children is reported on via performance challenge and we are active in promoting other local initiatives to our schools to tackle obesity and to support children and young people's mental and emotional wellbeing through a programme of Personal, Social and Health Education CPD.

Climate Change implications

48. All schools have a travel plan with many, putting in place actions aimed at reducing congestion and vehicle access in their communities including, Zones around schools, banning cars, idling and encouraging children to walk, cycle wherever possible. A number of schools work closely with TfL to support sustainable travel initiatives. Funding opportunities for schools to make their environments greener are regularly circulated and adopted by school communities.

Resource implications

49. The Council has committed over £3million to supporting the mental health needs of children and young people. There will be resource implications for undertaking work into the view of children and young people and potentially significant resourcing implications for narrowing attainment gaps.

Legal implications

50. Not applicable.

Financial implications

51. Not applicable.

Consultation

52. Not applicable.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**Head of Procurement**

53. Not applicable.

Director of Law and Governance

54. Not applicable.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

55. Not applicable.

Other officers

56. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission 19 July 2021	Education Directorate 4 th Floor, Children's and Adults' Services Tooley Street 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Nina Dohel 020 7525 3252
Link (please copy and paste into browser): https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=550&MId=7008&Ver=4		
Cabinet Agenda 15 June 2021	Education Directorate 4 th Floor, Children's and Adults' Services Tooley Street 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Nina Dohel 020 7525 3252
Link (please copy and paste into browser): https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&MId=7013&Ver=4		
Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission 20 April 2021	Education Directorate 4 th Floor, Children's and Adults' Services Tooley Street 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Nina Dohel 020 7525 3252

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Link (please copy and paste into browser): https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=550		
Council Assembly 24 February 2021	Education Directorate 4 th Floor, Children's and Adults' Services Tooley Street 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Nina Dohel 020 7525 3252
Link: https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=132		
Southwark's Borough Plan 2020-22	Education Directorate 4 th Floor, Children's and Adults' Services Tooley Street 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Nina Dohel 020 7525 3252
Link (please copy and paste into browser): https://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/fairer-future/council-plan?		
Introduction to IMHARS (short video)	Education Directorate 4 th Floor, Children's and Adults' Services Tooley Street 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Nina Dohel 020 7525 3252
Link: https://schools.southwark.gov.uk/pshe-healthy-schools/imhars		
Equalities Act 2010	Education Directorate 4 th Floor, Children's and Adults' Services Tooley Street 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Nina Dohel 020 7525 3252
Link: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/part/2/chapter/1		
Modernise Strategy: Southwark's Fairer Future IT Strategy	Housing and Modernise Directorate, 2 nd Floor, Hub 4, Tooley Street 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Dionne Lowndes 07523 919 592

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Link: https://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/modernise-strategy		

APPENDICES

None	
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AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education	
Lead Officer	David Quirke-Thornton, Strategic Director of Children's Adults' Services	
Report Author	Nina Dohel, Director of Education	
Version	Final	
Dated	7 October 2021	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
List other officers here	N/a	N/a
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		7 October 2021

Item No. .	Classification: Open	Date: 16 November 2021	Meeting Name: Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission
Report title:		Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2021-22	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		N/a	
From:		Scrutiny Officer	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the education and local economy scrutiny commission note the work programme as at 16 November 2021 attached as Appendix 1.
2. That the education and local economy scrutiny commission consider the addition of new items or allocation of previously identified items to specific meeting dates of the commission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The general terms of reference of the scrutiny commissions are set out in the council's constitution (overview and scrutiny procedure rules - paragraph 5). The constitution states that:

Within their terms of reference, all scrutiny committees/commissions will:

- a) review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the council's functions
- b) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the cabinet and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time in areas covered by its terms of reference
- c) review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas
- d) question members of the cabinet and officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and

targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects and about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area

- e) assist council assembly and the cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues
 - f) make reports and recommendations to the cabinet and or council assembly arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process
 - g) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants
 - h) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working
 - i) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance
 - j) conduct research and consultation on the analysis of policy issues and possible options
 - k) question and gather evidence from any other person (with their consent)
 - l) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the scrutiny process and in the development of policy options
 - m) conclude inquiries promptly and normally within six months
4. The work programme document lists those items which have been or are to be considered in line with the commission's terms of reference.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 5. Set out in Appendix 1 (Work Programme) are the issues the education and local economy scrutiny commission is due to consider in 2021-22.
- 6. The work programme is a standing item on the education and local economy scrutiny commission agenda and enables the commission to consider, monitor and plan issues for consideration at each meeting.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission agenda and minutes	Southwark Council Website	Amit Alva Amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk
Link: https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=550&Year=0		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Work Programme 2021-22

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Amit Alva, Scrutiny Officer	
Report Author	Amit Alva, Scrutiny Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	8 November 2021	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team	8 November 2021	

Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission Work Programme – 2021-22

Meeting	Agenda items	Comment
19 July 2021	Future of Children’s Education and Youth Provision in Southwark <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth New Deal and Youth Services Update • SEND provision and review 	Presentation received by Eva Gomez, Head of Culture. Rescheduled for September 29 2021 meeting
	Future of Work and Enterprise in Southwark <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good People • Social Investment Business Group • Overview of apprenticeships, internships and enterprise support – Cabinet Member Briefing 	Presentation received from Richard Tyrie, Good People. Presentation received from Genevieve Maitland Hudson, Social Investment Business Group. Briefing received from Councillor Jason Ochere, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Business and Town Centres.

Meeting	Agenda items	Comment
	<p>Follow up from 2020-21 Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southwark Equalities Framework – Cabinet Report [13 July 2021] • Children’s Experience and Education during Covid-19 Pandemic. • Revitalising Southwark’s High Streets and Town Centres. 	<p>Report noted by Commission.</p> <p>Report noted by Commission.</p> <p>Report noted by Commission.</p>
<p>29 September 2021</p>	<p>Future of Children’s Education and Youth Provision in Southwark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil Places: Looking at shortfalls in primary pupil numbers across the borough • SEND Review – To receive evidence from Cabinet Member and Officers 	<p>To receive a report from Director of Education. Nina Dohel.</p> <p>To hear from parents and teachers of the children with special education needs and disabilities. To also receive a presentation from Roger Lynch (SEND operator and practitioner)</p>
	<p>Future of Work and Enterprise in Southwark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult retraining 	<p>To receive the Skills Strategy Delivery Plan.</p>
<p>16 November 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 	<p>To hear from Nicky, Parent and Chair of Southwark Independent Voice, a parent-led volunteer organisation working to share information and resources to improve the life of individuals with SEND living in Southwark.</p>

Meeting	Agenda items	Comment
		<p>To hear from Simon Eccles, Executive Head teacher, Spa Education Trust. An introduction to Spa Schools and its specialist services.</p> <p>To receive a report from Yvonne Ely, Head of SEN & Inclusion, Children’s and Adults’ Services on Special Educational Needs and Disability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional overview of SEND processes and their complexities within Southwark • Provision for children with SEND, including NHS community-based paediatric referrals • Overview of Southwark’s Local Offer
1 February 2022	Follow up from 2020-21 Year	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusions and Alternative Provision – Update on implementation of scrutiny recommendations 	To receive an update on previous Scrutiny recommendations made to Cabinet
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement: Accessibility and Social Value – Update on implementation of Scrutiny Recommendations 	To receive an update on previous Scrutiny recommendations made to Cabinet
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre Action Plan (High Streets and Town Centres) 	To receive a report from Danny Edwards, Head of Economy, Councillor Jason Ochere Cabinet member for Jobs, Business and Town Centres

Meeting	Agenda items	Comment
8 March 2022	Cabinet Member Interview – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education Finalisation of any scrutiny reviews if not concluded earlier	Reviews must be concluded by this date due to Local Government Elections

Other areas requiring meeting scheduling

	Cabinet Member interviews/ addresses Councillor Jasmine Ali, Cabinet member for Children, Young People and Education.	Attendance date to be confirmed
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Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021-22

AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)

NOTE: Original held by Scrutiny Team; all amendments/queries to Fitzroy Williams Tel: 020 7525 7102

Name	No of copies	Name	No of copies
Electronic Copy		Aine Gallagher – Cabinet and Public Affairs Manager	
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Education Representatives		Pavle Popovic – Liberal Democrat Group Office	
Martin Brecknell Lynette Murphy O'Dwyer			
Parent Governors			
Marcin Jagodzinski Mannah Kargbo			
Reserves Members			
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai Councillor Humaira Ali Councillor Maggie Browning Councillor James Coldwell Councillor Sirajul Islam Councillor Richard Leeming Councillor James McAsh			
		Dated: November 2021	