



Cabinet
16 June 2014

Report from the Chief Executive

For Action

Wards Affected:
All

Brent Education Commission Report **Ambitious for all: Sharing responsibility**

1.0 SUMMARY

The Council commissioned a review of education in Brent to see how progress and performance might be accelerated for children and young people in schools. This review was chaired by the interim chief executive of Brent Council working with three other independent members. The report of the Commission is attached for consideration by the Cabinet.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Cabinet notes the findings of Brent's Education Commission.
- 2.2** That the Cabinet asks the lead member responsible for Children and Young People and the Strategic Director, Children and Young People, to consider the recommendations in detail and bring back a report in September with an action plan based on those recommendations that are accepted and are being taken forward.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1** Given the magnitude of the changes happening in the school sector, Brent Council to set up the Brent Education Commission to review education in the borough and to make recommendations for development. The overall aim of the Commission has been to build on existing effective practice, to identify areas of concern and to enhance the extent to which schools and academies learn from each other, so that every school succeeds, every child thrives and performance in Brent schools is accelerated.
- 3.2** Educationally, Brent outperforms local authorities nationally but not those in London, where it is close to the average. Many other London boroughs are performing better, including some with higher levels of deprivation. The Commission report looks at the possible reasons for Brent's poorer performance and makes a number of recommendations for improvement.

3.3 The Council is ambitious for change and key local stakeholders agree on the need for a new approach that responds to the changing educational landscape. The Report outlines the need to develop education strategy and leadership in Brent so it better fits the changing landscape. It also identifies five areas where change is necessary and suggests areas for development in:

- Planning schools places
- knowing Brent schools
- Promoting and supporting school –to-school networks
- Providing challenge to address weaknesses
- Improving school governance

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The only direct financial implications from this report are the cost of support for partnership initiatives with schools. These costs will be found from within current resources.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The local authority has a statutory duty to promote high standards in schools.

6.0 DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

This report considers the performance of underperforming groups and underperforming schools. The Commission Report is intended to address inequalities and improve performance.

7.0 STAFFING/ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS (IF APPROPRIATE)

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Education in Brent, Ambitious for all: a shared responsibility
Brent Education Commission Report, March 2014

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