



Cabinet
15 September 2014

**Report from the Strategic
Director of Children and Young People**

Wards Affected:
ALL

**Brent Education Commission Report Action Plan - Ambitious
for All**

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Council's Cabinet at its meeting on 16 June 2014 considered the Brent Education Commission Report and resolved that the Lead Member responsible for Children and Young People and the Strategic Director, Children and Young People, consider the recommendations in detail and bring back a report in September 2014 with an action plan based on those recommendations that are accepted and are being taken forward.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet endorses the high level Brent Education Commission Action Plan – Ambitious for All.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet notes that the Scrutiny Committee forward plan requests a six month update on implementation of the Education Commission action plan at its meeting on Tuesday 10 February 2015.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 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 Education Commission Report outlined the need to develop education strategy and leadership in Brent so it better fits the changing landscape. It also identified five areas where change is necessary and suggested areas for development in:

- Improving Strategic Leadership of Education across the Borough
- Planning school places
- Knowing Brent schools
- Promoting and supporting school –to-school networks

- Providing challenge to address weaknesses
- Improving school governance

3.2 A high level action plan has been prepared, in consultation with representatives of the Brent Schools Partnership, to take forward recommendations of the Brent Education Commission. Further engagement with schools, both headteachers and governors, will take place over coming months to ensure wider understanding of the implications of the Education Commission findings and the virtues of a partnership approach to addressing the issues.

3.3 More detailed managerial implementation plans are being developed for each priority area. A number of activities are already completed or underway in order to ensure appropriate pace and impact on outcomes.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The changes to staffing structures and systems within the School Improvement Team required by this plan will be achieved within the existing budget for school improvement. Also contained within this budget is the two year commitment to supporting the development of the Brent Schools Partnership.

4.2 The action plan also includes a commitment to incentivise schools to collaborate in clusters, giving them the opportunity to bid for innovation and improvement funding. The cost of this will be £100,000, over two years, which will be met from corporate reserves.

5.0 Legal Implications

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

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 The Education Commission Report considers the performance of underperforming groups and underperforming schools. The Commission Report is intended to address inequalities and improve performance. Equality Impact Assessments will be completed for each of the major policy initiatives in this action plan.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 The plan indicates that there will need to be changes to staffing structures in the School Improvement Team. All such changes will be managed using the Council's Management of Change Process.

Background Papers

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

Contact Officer(s)

Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
Gail.tolley@brent.gov.uk 020 8937 6422