



**Title of meeting:** CABINET

**Date of meeting:** 10 July 2014

**Subject:** Response to Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

**Report by:** Head of Education and Strategic Commissioning

**Wards affected:** All

**Key Decision:** No

**Full Council Decision:** No

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## 1. Summary

The Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel, conducted a review into, 'School Governance Arrangements' in Portsmouth and investigated ways in which the council can help improve school governance across the city.

## 2. Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to respond to the Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel's work.

## 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Panel is thanked for its work in undertaking the review.
- 3.2 That the Cabinet notes and supports the recommendations in the report.

#### **4. Background**

The Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel undertook its review into "School Governance Arrangements" to consider how to strengthen and support effective school governance in Portsmouth from December 2013 to May 2014.

At its meeting on 16 December 2013 the Panel agreed scoping objectives for the review as follows:

- To consider whether there is sufficient capacity within Portsmouth City Council to provide the necessary support to governing bodies in the city
- To consider recruitment and retention of school governors in the city
- To consider the skills of school governors, take up of training by governors, their ability to understand and interpret school data and ability to hold senior leaders to account
- To consider how effective the existing arrangements are for the governing body self-review
- To consider how effective clerking of governing bodies currently is and what can be done to strengthen clerking in the city
- To consider good practice from other Local Authorities

The Panel was chaired by Councillor Will Purvis and met formally on five occasions. They received evidence from a number of Council officers as well as Headteachers, School Governors, Business Community and Governor Services colleagues from other Local Authorities. The Panel also conducted a questionnaire survey of Headteachers, Governors and Clerks.

#### **5. Conclusion**

The Panel's recommendations are listed on page 8 of their report.

#### **6. Reasons for the Recommendations**

The education service is committed to strengthening effective school governance across all the city's schools.

The Panel's recommendations can therefore be supported and will be put into action by a number of Council officers from within existing budget and policy frameworks, with the exception of recommendation 9 which will be developed in conjunction with the Portsmouth Governors Forum and recommendation 13

which would require a full financial appraisal prior to implementing these arrangements.

## **7. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as the recommendations in the report do not contain any equality issues.

## **8. Legal Comments**

Legal comments are incorporated in the body of the scrutiny report.

## **9. Head of Financial Services' comments**

The financial implications are contained within the scrutiny report.

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Signed by: Julien Kramer, Head of Education & Strategic Commissioning