



Mayor and Cabinet

Digital Inclusion in Education Task and Finish Group final report

Date: 09 March 2022

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All (none specific)

Contributors: Assistant Chief Executive (Scrutiny Manager)

Outline and recommendations

This report asks Mayor and Cabinet to consider the final report and recommendations of the Digital Inclusion in Education Task and Finish Group.

NB: the report and recommendations are due to be discussed and agreed by the task & finish group on 8 March – the Head of Committee Business will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

The subject of the Task and Finish Group was proposed by Cllr Colin Elliott.

The subject and membership of the Group were agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26 May 2021.

The scope and key lines of enquiry for the review were agreed on 5 July 2021.

Between July 2021 and February 2022, the Group carried out a range of evidence gathering and engagement sessions (as detailed in the report).

The Group will meet on 8 March to discuss and agree its final report and recommendations.

1. Summary

1.1. The report attached at appendix A sets out the key findings of the Task and Finish Group.

2. Recommendations

2.1. Mayor and Cabinet is asked to:

- Consider the final report and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group as set out at Appendix A.
- Ask the relevant executive directors to provide a response to the review's recommendations.

3. Policy context

3.1. The Council's *Corporate Strategy (2018-2022)* outlines the Council's vision to deliver for residents over the next four years. Delivering this strategy includes the following priority outcomes that relate to digital inclusion in education:

- *Giving children and young people the best start in life - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education, and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.*
- *Building an inclusive local economy - Everyone can access high-quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.*

3.2. The committee also noted and took into account the four strategic themes at the heart of the Council's response to the impact of the pandemic, which support what we want for every single resident and that we know are what we need to focus on locally. These four strategic themes are: An economically sound future; a healthy and well future; a greener future; and a future we all have a part in. The first of these is particularly relevant to digital inclusion:

- *An economically sound future: We are working to get the borough back in business, with a future where everyone has the jobs and skills they need to get the best that London has to offer. We are a borough with businesses that are adaptable and prepared for change, a thriving local economy that sees 'local' as the first and best choice, with digital inclusion at the heart of our plans. We do all we can to support residents into jobs that pay fairly and provide families with the opportunities and security they deserve.*

4. Background

4.1. The subject of the Task and Finish Group was proposed by Councillor Colin Elliott and agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26 May 2021. The Group has received evidence from a range of sources and activities and has produced a report summarising its findings attached at appendix A.

4.2. Task and Finish Group members are due to discuss and agree the final report and recommendations at a meeting on 8 March 2022.

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5. Financial implications

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Recommendations from the Task and Finish Group have financial implications and these will need to be considered in the response.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1. The Council's Constitution provides at paragraph 6.11, Article 6 that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may from time to time appoint sub-committees, to be known as task and finish groups which will exist for a period of no less than 3 months, nor more than 12 months from the date of their creation. It further adds that 'Any task and finish group shall consist of 5 members and be established for the purpose of examining a particular issue in depth. The terms of reference of any task and finish group shall be agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which shall also appoint members to it.'
- 6.2. The Constitution provides for committees to refer reports to Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1. The Equality Act 2010 covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 7.2. The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 7.3. There may be equalities implications arising from recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group and these will need to be considered in the response.

8. Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Recommendations considered by the Task and Finish Group have climate change implications and these need to be given due consideration in the response.

9. Crime and disorder implications

- 9.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Matters considered by the Task and Finish Group may have crime and disorder implications and these will need to be given due consideration in the response.

10. Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation

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of the recommendations in this report. Matters considered by the Task and Finish Group have health and wellbeing implications and these will need to be considered in the response.

11. Report author and contact

11.1. If you have any questions about this report please contact:

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Appendix A: Final report of the Digital Inclusion in Education Task and Finish Group

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