

Key Decision Required:	No	In the Forward Plan:	No
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CABINET

18 MARCH 2016

REPORT OF THE ASSET MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

A.1 PROPOSED MERGER OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

(Report prepared by Ian Ford and Martyn Knappett)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT
<p>To seek Cabinet’s support, in principle, to the merger of the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee and the Education and Skills Committee.</p> <p>To then recommend to full Council on 5 April 2016 that such a merger comes into effect from the Annual Meeting of the Council on 26 April 2016.</p>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
<p>The Education and Skills Committee was formally created by Council at its meeting held on 25 March 2014 (Minute 117(2) refers) as the Council wished at that time to give a greater emphasis and profile to supporting the Council’s community leadership responsibilities in respect of raising educational attainment and aspirations of young people in the District, whilst ensuring that skills were aligned to career opportunities. Prior to that decision that role had been included within the terms of reference of the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee.</p> <p>Two years on, the situation now is that the Tendring Education Improvement Group is working well and local schools are working effectively together. In addition the Council’s Children and Young People’s Strategy has recently been reviewed and a Delivery Plan agreed. The important work of scrutinising the delivery of education and skills services in Tendring can be delivered via the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee alongside the other important functions such as Health, Policing and the voluntary sector.</p> <p>Cabinet will also be aware that during this year the Council will be conducting, under the auspices of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, a comprehensive review of the Council’s electoral and corporate governance arrangements. This will, in time, have a significant impact on the number of Councillors serving on Tendring District Council and also the Council’s Cabinet/Committee structure.</p> <p>Merging the two Committees will also fit well with the reductions in the officer workforce and will deliver a small financial saving.</p> <p>The current Chairmen of the two Committees have both been consulted on the proposed merger and have indicated that they are in agreement with what is proposed.</p>

Given the increased scope of the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee it is suggested that the number of Members should be increased from eight to eleven.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDED:

That the Cabinet supports, in principle, the merger of the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee and the Education and Skills Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

- (a) That the Education and Skills Committee be formally disbanded with effect from 25 April 2016;**
- (b) That the terms of reference of the Education and Skills Committee, which relate to the Council's community leadership role in respect of improving the aspiration and attainment of young people in the District, be transferred to the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee with effect from the Annual Meeting of the Council on 26 April 2016;**
- (c) That, also with effect from the Annual Meeting of the Council on 26 April 2016, the establishment of the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee be increased from eight Members to eleven Members;**
- (d) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make all necessary alterations and amendments to the Council's Constitution to give effect to the above.**

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The proposed changes will help ensure that the Council has a single, consistent Member focus on its external facing" overview and scrutiny functions in areas such as community services, health, education, crime and disorder and regeneration.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

There will be an ongoing minor saving to the Council as there will be a reduction in the number of meetings that will be administered. This will include costs such as paper and postage in the production and distribution of Agendas etc., attendance allowances and mileage for Officers and Members and electricity and other utility costs for the venue.

There will also be an ongoing saving of £3,800 (2015/2016 figure) in respect of the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman of the Education and Skills Committee.

LEGAL

The action proposed is within the Council's discretionary powers.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The Education and Skills Committee was formally created by Council at its meeting held on 25 March 2014 (Minute 117(2) refers) with the following terms of reference:

“To support the Council’s community leadership role in respect of improving the aspiration and attainment of young people in the District and this will include:

- *Reviewing the key drivers that impact the educational attainment and aspirations in Tendring, including:*
 - *School performance in its wider remit (including how to support the recruitment and retention of teachers in Tendring schools);*
 - *School readiness of young people (including reviewing support that can be given to families);*
 - *The impact of migration into the District and contributory Council policies;*
 - *The roles of partners, including the business sector, in supporting schools.*
 - *Supporting the recruitment and training of school governors; and*
 - *The way partners work together to provide improved access to careers information to young people.*
- *Reviewing the work undertaken by the Council, including within its partnership activities, to develop the skills of those that live and work in the District.”*

Prior to that date education and skills was included within the terms of reference of the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee. The current terms of reference of that Committee are as follows:

“To perform the functions in relation to the Council’s external-facing functions including:

- *Community Strategy*
- *Community Services*
- *Regeneration*
- *Local Plan/Local Development Framework*
- *Consultation*
- *Emergency Planning (Civil Contingencies)*
- *Partnerships*
- *External Scrutiny (e.g. Crime and Disorder Reduction and Health)”*

The Education and Skills Committee has met on seven occasions with a further meeting scheduled for 18 April 2016.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

The Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee, in common with the other overview and scrutiny committees, currently, has an establishment of eight Members. In the light of the proposal to bring the scrutiny of education and skills matters back under the auspices of that Committee, which will have an effect on that Committee’s work

programme it is proposed that the establishment of the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee be increased from eight Members to eleven Members which is consistent with the size of the Planning Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None

APPENDICES

None