

Cabinet – 13 December 2023

Recommendations from Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding school performance data

Portfolio: Councillor Statham – Education and Skills

Related Portfolios:

Service: Childrens Services (Education Directorate)

Wards: All

Key decision: No

Forward plan: No

1. Aim

To receive a recommendation from the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee made on 3 October 2023 regarding school performance data.

2. Recommendations

That:-

1. Cabinet writes to the Secretary of State for Education to request that public performance data published on the Department for Education website on Local Authorities average education performance should split academy (Multi Academy Trusts or Companies) from maintained schools as Local Authorities have no control over academies and thus should not be judged on their performance.

3. Report detail – know

At its meeting on the 3 October 2023, the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee received an update report on Learning Recovery within the Borough's schools. Members raised concerns and made a recommendation in relation to the report.

Members were concerned that the headline data published by the Department for Education which was used to judge the performance of the Council, such as Ofsted ratings and reading, writing and phonics standards, included performance data from academies. Members felt that it was not fair to judge the performance of the local authority using data including academies and that this data should be split between maintained schools and academies. This was because the Council did not have any control or input into the running of academies and therefore should

not be judged on their performance, especially when being compared to national averages.

The Committee felt that when comparing each local authority's performance the Department for Education should separate academies' data from that of the Borough's maintained schools when judging the performance of the Borough, as maintained schools had performed better on average in their Ofsted rating.

4. Decide

Cabinet could choose to:

1. undertake the recommendation as set out;
2. reject it;
3. choose to receive a report in more depth at a future Cabinet meeting.

5. Respond

Following the decision of Cabinet, the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be advised of the outcome of their recommendation.

6. Review

Subject to the decision of Cabinet, further reports at Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings or Cabinet meetings may be required.

Background papers

None

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