

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 27 February 2018



Subject: Epping Forest College - Scrutiny of External Organisation

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Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Committee undertake appropriate external scrutiny of Epping Forest College, in response to the concerns of members with regard to local further education facilities and services.

1. (Director of Governance) As the Committee will recall, the Principal of Epping Forest College attended its meeting on 28 February 2017 to respond to the concerns of members in connection with the plans of the College to address a report of Ofsted (January 2017) on its 'inadequate' judgement of the quality of its local further education facilities and services. The minutes of that meeting of the Committee are available at:
<https://goo.gl/SLW5PX>
2. Members have expressed a desire to undertake further external scrutiny of the progress of the College with regard to the achievement and delivery of its improvement plans and this is included in the current work programme for the Committee. The Principal of Epping Forest College, Sabhooi Famili, will therefore be attending the meeting in this regard.
3. The following specific issues relating to the services provided by Epping Forest College were identified by the Committee at its meeting on 9 January 2018, which have been notified to Ms. Famili as the emphasis for such external scrutiny, in order to ensure that maximum value can be derived from this activity:
 - (a) the support, assistance and facilities provided by the College for disabled or disadvantaged students and those with special educational needs;
 - (b) the support, assistance and facilities provided by the College for students from areas of identified social deprivation;
 - (c) the educational subjects and qualifications in which the performance of the College is currently regarded to be 'failing' and those subjects and qualifications where the College is presently performing well in terms of attainment;
 - (d) the success of the College's proposed improvements and achievements outlined to the Committee in February 2017 and its expectations for future improvement and achievement going forward;

- (e) the current position with regard to Luctons Field and the intentions of the College with regard to the future use of this area, which is currently restricted to educational or health service uses;
 - (f) the success of the College's relationship with its 'sister' college (Barnet and Southgate College) in terms of the support, assistance and facilities provided to students; and
 - (g) the success of the links and partnership arrangements that the College has established with the local community within the Epping Forest District, including the commercial and charitable sectors.
4. A report (November 2017) of Ofsted setting out the results of its recent re-inspection of the College, is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
 5. The identification of additional lines of questioning to be raised with Epping Forest College has also been sought from members through the Council Bulletin.

Resource Implications:

The recommendations of this report seek to enable scrutiny activity to more effectively meet work programme requirements.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities. Although external organisations are not generally required by legislation to attend before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is hoped that most would be willing to engage constructively with the Council's scrutiny activity when invited to do so.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district.

Consultation Undertaken:

The scrutiny of a number of specific issues relating to local further education facilities and services at Epping Forest College was identified by the Committee at its meeting on 9 January 2018.

Background Papers:

None.

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.