

# Education Strategy Board

## Minutes

7 November 11.00 – 13.00

**Present:** Kate Kennally (Chair), Val White, Heather Storey, Stephen McDonald, Tim Bowden, Steve Hilborne, Gary Tucker, Mick Quigley, Niall Marlow.

**Apologies:** Stephan Evans, Teresa Tunnadine, Steve Carroll, David Byrne, John Hooton

### 1. Welcome and introductions

Kate Kennally welcomed everybody to the first meeting and set out the background to the establishment of the board. A brief discussion took place to lay out the objectives of the board and set the Barnet context within which the Education Strategy is being developed. There was consensus that in view of developments nationally and locally that now is the right time to be looking at the issues.

All agreed that the development of a strategy for Barnet must be a partnership effort and the purpose of this board is to oversee a strategy that looks to the future and sets out an agreed, shared direction of travel.

The question of the relationship between Councillors and the Board was raised and it was explained that the chair of this board is accountable to the Lead Member, who is elected. In addition, a Scrutiny Board is being established for Councillors to examine this issue and provide a political steer. It will be important to articulate and set out the responsibilities of councillors in the new landscape. The independence of the board was raised and it was noted that elected members, as part of a Conservative administration have set a political priority to ensure that there is a good school for every child and view this as critical to Barnet's success as a borough.

### 2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference were agreed and a discussion followed around several key issues. Links to the Regeneration Board were discussed. There is a requirement on partners to be knowledgeable and it will be important to skill members up and communicate well. A portal and the School Circular were both discussed as options. It was agreed that the top five messages from each meeting of this board should be agreed and circulated in the Schools Circular

**Action:** Communication portal to be established. School Circular to be used to communicate key messages from the Board.

### 3. Setting the context

A presentation was given setting out the national and local context. It was noted that the four nursery schools in the borough are all outstanding and the future shape of nursery provision should be considered. Similarly, the

successful features of school improvement should be a theme for future discussion.

**Action:** Add additional contextual data and circulate presentation to Board members

**4. Project Plan and progress**

A presentation was given on the plan for this project and it was noted that consultation with children and young people should be included, along with employers.

It was agreed that learning objectives should be set as success criteria for workshops and head teachers agreed to encourage attendance at the conference on 20 November.

**Action:** Learning objectives to be set for workshops. Project plan to be circulated to Board members.

**5. AOB**

The Capital and Place Planning group, which will help to shape the Place Planning aspect of the Strategy currently meetings half-termly; it was agreed that this may need to be increased to undertake this piece of work.