

Report of the Convener of the School Governance Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 11 January 2016

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY INQUIRY – FINAL REPORT

Purpose	To present the final report for the scrutiny inquiry into School Governance
Content	The final report is attached which concludes the inquiry.
Councillors are being asked to	a) Agree the report for submission to Cabinet b) Identify any issues that might be emphasised as the report is presented to Cabinet c) Consider whether any issues arising merit inclusion in the future scrutiny work programme
Lead Councillor	Councillor Fiona Gordon, Convener
Lead Officer and Report Author	Dave Mckenna, Scrutiny Manager

1. Details

- 1.1 The final report arising from the Scrutiny Panel's inquiry into School Governance is presented to the Committee for agreement. The attached report presents the conclusions and recommendations arising from the inquiry that sought to answer the following question:

How can the Council ensure that school governors provide effective challenge for their schools?

- 1.2 The report is structured in the following way:

- Foreword: Why This Matters
- Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations
- Why We Produced this Report
- Evidence Considered
- Conclusions
- Recommendations
- Further Scrutiny Needed
- Acknowledgements
- About the Inquiry Panel

- 1.3 The Scrutiny Programme Committee are asked to agree the report for submission to Cabinet. In considering the report the Committee should satisfy themselves that:

- Sufficient evidence has been gathered in order to address the question that the inquiry aimed to answer;
- The conclusions are supported by the evidence gathered by the Panel;

- The recommendations of the Panel follow from their conclusions and are reasonable, achievable and capable of being actioned and monitored.

If the Committee have any issues with regard to the content of the report, these will need to be referred back to the Panel for further consideration prior to the report being re-presented to the Committee.

- 1.4 In considering the report the Committee may wish to emphasise aspects of the Inquiry to Cabinet. Points of this type can be included on the covering report that goes to Cabinet and will be attributed to the Committee.

2. Further Scrutiny Needed

- 2.1 As well as recommendations for Cabinet the Panel has also identified an issue that may require further scrutiny (see paragraph 3.11.4 of the main report).

- 2.2 The Panel proposes that the Committee adds the following topic to its work programme:

- *The function and operation of the LA Governor Panel to ensure that it supports the work of governing bodies.*

3. Legal Implications

- 3.1 There are no specific legal implications at this stage.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications to this report. Any potential implications will be outlined in the Cabinet response.

5. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 5.1 Equality and engagement issues were formally considered at the scoping stage of this inquiry and borne in mind by the panel throughout evidence gathering. The Cabinet Member will need to ensure that implications are considered via application of the corporate Equality Impact Assessment process when considering the response to the recommendations. This is of particular importance for this inquiry as schools are subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) in their own right.

Background Papers: *see attached report*

Contact: Dave Mckenna, *Scrutiny Officer, 01792 636090*

Date: *06/01/2016*

Legal Officer: *Stephanie Williams*

Finance Officer: *Sue Rees*

Access to Services: *Sherill Hopkins*