

REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE – 24 MAY, 2018

SCRUTINY REFERRAL TO EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – GLOW

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 **Note the decision of the Education and Children's Services Committee to take no further action, having received sufficient reassurance following the Members Away-Day in January, 2018;**
- 1.2 **Consider whether to conduct Stage 1 of the Committee Review Process in respect of the original matter.**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 At its meeting on 29 March, 2017, the Audit Committee agreed that, in respect of an Internal Audit Report on Technology in Schools, in particular the GLOW system, it would request that Education and Children's Services Committee consider undertaking Stage 1 of the Committee Review Process, in relation to the matter and report back to the Audit Committee in due course.
- 2.2 The Education and Children's Services Committee agreed at its meeting on 31 August, 2017, to undertake a Committee Review Process on the GLOW system and to arrange an Away-Day for members of the Committee to incorporate learning through technology so that members could familiarise themselves with the methods used by the Service and see the web-based interfaces that support learning for young people. Members of the Audit Committee were invited to attend the Away-Day, which took place on 10 January, 2018. For the avoidance of doubt, the Away-Day did not form part of the Committee Review Process and was proposed as an opportunity for members to receive information and assurance as an alternative.
- 2.3 The Education and Children's Services Committee received an update on the outcome of the Away-Day at its meeting on 1 February, 2018. Following the update, it was agreed that the Committee would take no further action in respect of the Committee Review Process, as the Away-Day had provided sufficient reassurance to members. There was therefore no requirement for the Stage 1 report. The Director of ECS and the Chair of Education and Children's Services Committee were of the view that the presentations given and information provided at the Away Day were sufficient in addressing the concerns raised. Members present had every opportunity to raise any questions or concerns they may have had. On that basis, they agreed no further report back to ECS Committee was necessary, and the matter from the ECS Committee perspective was concluded.
- 2.4 Section G.2.2 of the List of Committee Powers provides that where a report from a policy committee following a referral by the Audit Committee does not

provide sufficient reassurance, the Audit Committee may conduct the Committee Review Process itself and report any recommendations back to the policy committee. If the Audit Committee agrees to undertake the Committee Review Process in respect of this matter, it could seek further reassurance, in the form of a Stage 1 Scrutiny Report from the Director of Education and Children's Services.

- 2.2 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section G.2.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the outcome of a scrutiny referral by the Audit Committee to the Education and Children's Services Committee.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the report is asking the Committee to discuss and comment on Internal Audit recommendations and there will be no differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.2 There are no direct staffing and financial implications arising from this report.
- 4.3 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter in the Directorate Risk Registers being the ECS Schools Risk Register. Risk Ref. AS007 relating to failure to keep knowledge, skills and training up to date.

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Edwin Duncan, ECS Business Support & Development Manager