

# Update Report on the Multi-Academy Task and Finish Group to the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cllr. Charlotte Haitham Taylor

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Agenda Item 45.

# Membership of the Task and Finish Group

- Cllr. Ulla Karin Clark
- Cllr. Andy Croy
- Cllr. Richard Dolinski
- Cllr. Charlotte Haitham Taylor (Chair)
- Cllr. John Halsall
- Cllr. John Kaiser
- Cllr. Beth Rowland
- Cllr. Alison Swaddle
- Cllr. Shahid Younis

## Officer support:

- Alan Stubbersfield
- Gill Walker

## Guests:

- Pat Kerton Head Teacher - Hawthorns Primary School
- Julian Bushall - Secondary Federation



# Meetings to date:

- 12<sup>th</sup> October
- 9<sup>th</sup> November
- 28<sup>th</sup> November - Members attended Borough-wide Head Teacher and Chair of Governors meeting at St. Crispin's
- 30<sup>th</sup> November
- 5<sup>th</sup> December



# Agenda originally influenced by...

- ‘Educational Excellence Everywhere’ - White Paper March 2016
- DfE - All LA schools to become academies by 2020
- Paper to Executive 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016 – Establishing a Wokingham Multi-Academy Trust
- Loss of Education Support Grant (ESG) 2017



# Shift in agenda since T&F was conceived.....

- New Prime Minister
- New Secretary of State for Education
- Momentum for all LA schools to convert to academies by 2020 has been lost...
- New agenda – Grammar Schools...
- Education Service Grant (ESG) STILL GOES
- And failing schools still need Academy sponsorship



# Local Context:

- 9 of the borough's 65 schools are Academies
- Academies are converter or sponsored
- Sponsors include: GLF, Floreat, Bohunt, CfBT, Northern House Trust



# Education Services Grant

- Grant to LAs for their Education functions  
Removed from 2017
- LAs' statutory duties & powers remain
- Statutory minimum provision
- Putting together the funding
- Service area re-design



# ESG coverage/statutory duties

- School Improvement
- Statutory & Regulatory
- Education Social Workers (ESW)
- Educational Psychology Service (EPS)
- Asset Management
- Premature retirement/redundancy
- Central Support Services
- Special Educational Needs (SEN), therapies, health
- Monitoring of National Curriculum Assessment





# WBC education funds 2016-17

- ESG funding £1,806k
- WBC subsidy £1,112k
- Total WBC Education spend £2,918k

- POST- GRANT 2017-18

**NEED TO FIND**

**£1,806K**

- Subject to change – recent government announcements made in December may alter some of these figures



# The Bottom Line

- Lost ESG £1,806k
- Proposals to Address Gap  
going to Schools Forum 18<sup>th</sup> Jan £1,081k
- Original WBC subsidy £1,112k
- ....therefore
- Outstanding £725k
- *New WBC subsidy* £1,837k
- Subject to change – recent government announcements made in December may alter some of these figures

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# Learning Partnership...

- Explored legal structures for setting up social enterprises
- A not for profit or shareholding company
- Offering support services to trade
- % of work contacted by the Council
- Variety of different governance models and schemes of delegation
- Took ESG information and Learning Trust proposals to meeting of Head Teachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies - 28<sup>th</sup> Nov



## Example of some basic principles :

- Membership available to all: maintained, academies, church, free
- Subscription dependent upon Numbers on Role - subscribers benefit from a discounted price for services
- A range of school support packages offered
- Charging structure developed by the trust partners
- WBC will contract statutory services from the trust
- Trading beyond WBC to enhance income
- Any profits reinvested into WBC subscribers



# Learning Partnership membership...

- Elected Headteachers/Governors all phases
- Council members
- Council Officers
- Co-optees

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# Possible functions might include:

- School Improvement
- Governor Support
- NQTs
- Moderation
- EWS, SEN and EPS
- Virtual School (Children in Care and Care Leavers)
- Early Years



# Learning Partnership Board Remit

- Agrees business plan – to include priorities and future growth
- Considers new product development
- Reviews Company's finances, business development and risk register.

**Each School/Governing Body retains governance, budget , autonomy**



# Learning Partnership agrees traded and contract services – examples might include:

<b>Traded</b>	<b>Statutory Contract</b>
Consultancy Advice Courses Conferences Bespoke training Curriculum support Governance	Contract with WBC to delivery statutory duties to schools and settings In an OFSTED category Causing concern Below floor Requiring improvement Coasting.

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**Hertsforlearning has 77% traded and 23% contract services.**



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# Examples of Good Learning Partnership models:

- Hertfordshire County Council in partnership with schools has developed *HertsforLearning (HFL)* – a shareholding, profit making ‘schools company’ that combines traded support services for schools with contracted work from the LA. Profits are shared between the 521 shareholding schools.



Buckinghamshire County Council in partnership with schools has developed *BucksLearningTrust (BLT)*.

*Their strap line is*

*“In Bucks, beyond Bucks, for Bucks.”*

This is a company limited by guarantee with a charitable status.

It works on membership fees dependent on Numbers on Role with a clear charging policy



# Next steps for the T&F Group....

- Schools Forum 18<sup>th</sup> Jan – will schools agree to top-slice Early Years funding and contribute £15 per head of ESG (transferred to DSG) to help meet funding gap that loss of grant leaves?
- Consider different models and viability of Education Services should the schools not wish contribute via the DSG or form a Learning Partnership



# Next steps cont....

- Cont. to engage with schools – possible YouTube video
- Send out Questionnaire to Head Teachers and Chair of Governors about Learning Partnership models
- Further develop financial and legal models for Learning Partnership
- Explore benefits of establishing LA MAT





# Questions?



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