

Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee 1 October 2009

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

14-19 Diplomas - Feasibility Report

Summary

1. This report presents a feasibility report on a suggested scrutiny topic on 14-19 Diplomas, which was previously considered by the Education Scrutiny Committee in September 2008, and asks Members to decide whether or not they wish to carry out a review of this deferred topic.

Background

2. The Education Scrutiny Committee considered a feasibility report together with its associated annexes, on the suggested topic of 14-19 Diploma, in September 2009 – see Annexes A, Aa and Ab attached. At that time Members received a verbal presentation which covered:
 - i. Context – local, regional and national – including the city-wide strategy
 - ii. Planning diplomas, including match with city economic drivers, delivery of diplomas, functional skills and the future for diplomas in York
 - iii. Machinery of Government changes and the role of the LA i.e. the transfer of funding for 16-19 education from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to the Local Authority (LA), meaning that the LA will be responsible for securing sufficient provision in its local area to meet the new learner entitlements whilst raising participation and attainment.
 - iv. Outcomes
3. After a detailed discussion, and taking into consideration the information within the report and the rapid reforms to be introduced in York during 2009, Members agreed to receive a progress report focusing on diplomas and the 'Machinery of Government' changes in six months time, to allow time for the essential activity to be completed, to enable the Committee to better identify any specific areas of concern, and to reconsider whether or not to proceed with a review of this topic.
4. In November 2008, an update report was presented to the Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services on progress within the city in taking forward the 14–19 Curriculum Reforms. It also provided a briefing on the implications of the Machinery of Government changes and information on

funding issues, notably the revenue grants provided to support Diploma developments.

5. In March 2009, a further update report was presented to the Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services on further progress within the city in taking forward the Machinery of Government (MOG) changes, including the transfer to the Local Authority of funding for 16-19 education, and the 14-19 curriculum reforms.
6. A number of 14-19 Bulletins have also been produced, providing regular updates on progress. These can be viewed at www.lea.york.sch.uk/14-19

Consultation

7. The Director of Learning, Culture & Children's Services has confirmed that the most recent 14-19 Bulletin was produced in early September 2009, and this is shown at Annex B for your information.

Options

8. Having considered the information in this report and its annexes, Members may choose to:
 - Carry out the review and agree a remit for the review
 - Request further information in order to inform their decision
 - Agree not to carry out the review, but request further updates on progress with implementing York's 14-19 Reform Strategy

Corporate Strategy

9. A review of this suggested topic would support the Council's aim of making York a 'Learning City' in line with its strategy of – 'We want to make sure that local people have access to world-class education and training facilities and provision. This will help them to develop the skills and aspirations they need to play an active part in society and contribute to the life of the city'

Implications

10. There are no known Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, ITT, Property or Other implications associated with the recommendation in this report.

Risk Management

11. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

Recommendations

12. Members are asked to consider whether they wish to proceed with a review of this topic at this time or request regular updates on progress with implementing the 14-19 Reform Strategy for York.

Contact Details

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Report Approved **Date** 22 September 2009

Specialist Implications Officer(s) N/A

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Executive Member & Children & young People's Services Update Report on 14-19 Reforms dated 6 November 2008 – viewable on the Council's website at:

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=442&MId=3691&Ver=4>

Executive Member & Children & young People's Services Update Report on 14-19 Reforms dated 12 March 2009 – viewable on the Council's website at:

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=442&MId=3694&Ver=4>

Annexes

Annex A - Feasibility Report

Annex Aa - Topic Registration Form

Annex Ab - Diagram of Learning City York – 14-19 Partnership Structures 2008

Annex B - 14-19 Bulletin dated September 2009