

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 28 February 2017



Subject: Scrutiny of External Organisations – Epping Forest College

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Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Committee undertake appropriate external scrutiny of Epping Forest College, in respect of local further education facilities and services.

1. (Director of Governance) The Principal of Epping Forest College, Sabhooi Famili, will be attending the meeting to report to members in connection with the plans of the College to address the recent report of Ofsted (January 2017) on its 'inadequate' judgement of the quality of its local further education facilities and services.
2. Whilst external scrutiny of the College's future vision and its relationship with the local community is already included in the reserve work programme for the Committee for 2016/17, the Chairman has agreed that this opportunity be taken to bring such scrutiny forward as a result of the findings of Ofsted. It has not therefore been possible for the Committee to give prior consideration to the themes and specific issues of the College's further education facilities and services that it wishes to raise with Ms. Famili, in accordance with its usual procedure.
3. The identification of lines of questioning to be raised with the Principal of the College have been sought through the Council Bulletin. Matters raised by members have been notified to Ms. Famili, in order to ensure that maximum value is derived from this external scrutiny activity. The report of Ofsted is attached as Appendix 1 to this agenda.
4. Representatives of Epping Forest College last appeared before the Committee in October 2015. In order to support effective scrutiny of the current matters of concern to members, the presentation made by the College at that time and the minutes of the meeting, are available at:

<http://rds.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/jeListDocuments.aspx?CId=395&MId=8316&Ver=4>

5. It is understood that the Principal of the College will not be making a formal presentation to the Committee on this occasion.

Resource Implications:

The recommendations of this report seek to enable scrutiny activity to more effectively meet work programme requirements.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities. Although external organisations are not generally required by legislation to attend before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is hoped that most would be willing to engage constructively with the Council's scrutiny activity when invited to do so.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district.

Consultation Undertaken:

The scrutiny of the College's further education facilities and services have not previously been identified by the Committee.

Background Papers:

None

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.