



COUNCIL – 26TH JANUARY, 2016

**SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF AUDIT AND RISK ASSURANCE
COMMITTEE/PANEL FOR SOUTH EAST WALES EDUCATION
ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE**

REPORT BY: INTERIM HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES & CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members of changes agreed in relation to the company arrangements/structure of the Education Achievement Service for South East Wales (EAS).
- 1.2 To seek Member nominations to sit on the newly established Committee/Panel.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The EAS was established as a limited Company in July 2012. This Report updates Members on changes to the Company arrangements/structure of the EAS, with relation to the establishment of a new Audit and Risk Assurance Committee/Panel of the EAS, as approved by the EAS at its Board meeting held on 24th November, 2015.
- 2.2 The Report also asks for two nominations from Elected Members to sit on the newly established Committee Panel.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The five Council's and the EAS collaboration and Members Agreement.
- 3.2 The Deed of Collaboration.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 EAS was established as a limited company in July 2012. Its prime function is to raise education standards across the region: Newport, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Monmouthshire Councils commissioned the EAS to deliver school improvement service on behalf of each individual Authority and hence across the consortium.
- 4.2 Since that time, the governance arrangements have been developed and reports presented to Members to approve and implement changes.
- 4.3 This Report updates Members in relation to a further change to the EAS arrangements with particular reference to the establishment of a new EAS Audit and Risk Assurance Committee/Panel comprising of two non-executive Members from each of the five Authorities.

- 4.4 The EAS Board approved the establishment of a new EAS Audit and Risk Assurance Committee/panel at its meeting held on 24th November, 2015.
- 4.5 A copy of the Report to the EAS Board is attached at Appendix 1. The Report at Appendix 1 sets out the reasons for the establishment of the new Committee/Panel. Members will note that the EAS Board consider that the new Committee/Panel will provide a crucial mechanism in ensuring adequate controls are in place to manage the risk obligations of the EAS Board.
- 4.6 The terms of reference of the new Committee/Panel are set out in the Report to the EAS Board at Appendix 1. However the EAS Board, at its meetings in November approved the composition of the new Committee/Panel with non-executive Members from each of the five participating Local Authorities.
- 4.7 Further changes to the current governance structure of the EAS are under consideration and will be the subject of further Reports to Members in the future.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None arising from the Report.

6. FINANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None arising from this Report. Proposals will be met from existing budgets.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The Report reflects the view of the listed consultees.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members note the establishment of the new Audit and Risk Assurance Committee/Panel in relation to the EAS.
- 9.2 Members approve the nomination of two non-executive Members to sit on the Committee/Panel for submission to the EAS.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To improve the current risk management obligations and arrangements to the EAS.

11. STATUTORY POWERS

- 11.1 Local Government Act 1972.
School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

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Mr. C. Burns, Interim Chief Executive, burnsc1@caerphilly.gov.uk
Councillor K. Reynolds, Leader, reynokv@caerphilly.gov.uk
Councillor R. Passmore, Cabinet Member for Education, passmr@caerphilly.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Copy Report to the EAS Board – 29th October, 2014

Background Papers:

Cabinet Report – 29th October, 2014