

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 06 November 2019

Wards: ALL

Subject: Update on the Digital Technology in Merton Schools Task Group Review

Lead member: Councillor Russell Makin, Chair of the 'Digital technology in the classroom task group review.

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Recommendations:

- A. That the Panel comment on the update report from the 'Digital technology in the classroom Task Group.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. In June 2019 this Panel commissioned a task group to consider 'Digital technology in Merton schools. The review will consider the benefits of the rise in technology in the classroom, how it's being used in other Local Authorities and whether Merton can grow in this area.
- 1.2. This report provides an update on the membership of the task group and an overview of the work undertaken thus far.
- 1.3. **Membership**
Councillor Russell Makin (Chair)
Councillor Edward Foley
Councillor Agatha Akyigyina
Councillor Marsie Skeete
Councillor Joan Henry
Councillor James Holmes
Councillor Jenifer Gould
- 1.4. **Work undertaken by the task group**

The task group has met with senior officers from the Children, Schools and Families Department who provided an overview of the issues

Task Group Members have visited three schools:
Richard Challoner, Secondary School, Kingston
Sherwood Primary School, Mitcham
Ricards Lodge, Secondary School, Wimbledon.

1.5. **Emerging themes**

The task group are considering focusing the review around three main areas:

Consider how to develop a consistent ICT offer across all Merton schools

Identify and recommend to schools technologies that are known to be successful.

Look at potential funding or sponsorship sources for technology in schools

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public.

Cabinet is constitutionally required to receive, consider and respond to scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them at a meeting.

- 2.1. Cabinet is not, however, required to agree and implement recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny. Cabinet could agree to implement some, or none, of the recommendations made in the scrutiny review final report.

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 3.1. The Panel will be consulted at the meeting

4 TIMETABLE

- 4.1. The Panel will consider important items as they arise as part of their work programme for 2019/20

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. None relating to this covering report

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. None relating to this covering report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the legal and statutory implications of the topic being scrutinised.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partners in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of reviews are intended to benefit all sections of the local community.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None relating to this covering report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the crime and disorder implications of the topic being scrutinised.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None relating to this covering report

- 10 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**
- 11 BACKGROUND PAPERS**
- 11.1. None.

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