

## **Future of School Improvement – Sheffield City Council (SCC) activities and contracting with Learn Sheffield**

### **Key Messages**

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the update below and in the attached Committee paper (Appendix 1), and that a verbal update will be given at the June Schools Forum meeting.
- Agree that the Council should continue to directly deliver some statutory school improvement services according to established practices and processes.
- Also agree that whilst the current contract for school improvement activities through Learn Sheffield will expire on 31st August 2023, officers will look to move forward a proposal for a new contract for limited school improvement activities from 1 September 2023 for two years at a value of £97k.

### **1. Introduction/background**

- 1.1. Further to the February Schools Forum discussion and the report presented to Committee on 13 December 2022 which presented options for the future funding of Sheffield City Council school improvement activities. It was outlined that additional investigative work needed to be undertaken as to how best to deliver these activities. The purpose of this report is to update the Forum on the outcome of that investigative work.
- 1.2. Officers have consulted with stakeholders including local headteachers, governors and Learn Sheffield. One of the outcomes of this consultation was a proposal from Learn Sheffield that they could continue to fulfil activities on behalf of the Council within the budget now available.
- 1.3. The Council would continue to meet the statutory school improvement responsibilities it provides currently through its existing practices and processes. However, in the case of the limited areas where there is no existing capacity within SCC to meet statutory duties, (for example, the monitoring and moderation of Key Stage assessments), these responsibilities would continue to be contracted out. Learn Sheffield would also continue to deliver complementary non-statutory services.
- 1.4. Having considered this proposal, officers believe that it represents the best value for ensuring statutory responsibilities continue to be met and that high standards of school improvement activity continue to be in place across the city.

1.5. Continuing with Learn Sheffield provides consistency and stability by maintaining a positive relationship with an existing 'Schools Company' with an established reputation locally and with effective partnerships in place, both with SCC and Sheffield schools. Learn Sheffield has proposed activities that can be funded from existing budgets, and it is not felt that the services could be delivered more cost effectively in-house. These proposals will enable SCC to meet its statutory duties and have confidence that our schools are being supported effectively. Consequently, the proposal is a better option than insourcing all services.

1.6. The estimated value of the new contract is £97K.

## 2. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to endorse the proposals and:

- **Agree** that the Council should continue to directly deliver some statutory school improvement services according to established practices and processes.
- **Also agree** that whilst the current contract for school improvement activities through Learn Sheffield will expire on 31st August 2023, officers will look to move forward a proposal for a new contract for limited school improvement activities from 1 September 2023 for two years at a value of £97k.