Appendix 3 – Consultation schedule:

The current School Improvement Strategy (2018 – 2021) was written and presented to schools prior to its adoption in 2018 with only minimal consultation and discussion outside of the School Improvement Service.

In order to enhance partnership working it was agreed that a new 'Education Excellence' Strategy would be co-produced with stakeholders building on the improved relationships that the Local Authority has developed with schools, Early Years settings and leaders over the last 18 months (particularly through the support, advice and guidance shared through the Covid-19 pandemic) so enabling the views of partners and the specific needs of children and young people to be met whilst promoting parity and consistency.

A detailed schedule of consultation meetings and events have taken place to ensure this collaborative approach has encompassed all views. All schools and settings were invited to participate in the development of this important strategic document.

To summarise:

- Informal consultation took place with school leaders on current school improvement strategy, its strengths and weaknesses
- A task and finish group was established to formulate the new 'Education Excellence' strategy, including representation from early years and school leaders, including terms of reference as appropriate
- Aspects of the current strategy which have proved successful in securing improvement have been retained and assimilated into the new model
- The new strategy extends to include early years settings, so creating consistency in approach for all
- It was agreed to continue to use a model of graded support to enable the most vulnerable settings to be supported as well as promote autonomy and sustained self-improvement for high performing settings
- As part of the collaborative approach through task and finish activity, a model of 'team around the school / setting (EYFS providers)' was explored and deemed to be of benefit to all, thereby ensuring school improvement advisors (SIAs) and the Senior Early Years Advisor / EYFS Team have all relevant information when necessary to support improvement activity and to understand the wider context which may impact upon a school / setting
- In the event of inclusion of a 'team around the school / setting' protocols for the sharing of key information as schools / settings may have SLAs with providers beyond the city council have been agreed
- A draft revised Education Excellence Strategy has been produced for the period 2021-24 for consideration including cross-party political approval
- Following approval, there will be a distribution of the approved policy in readiness for September 2021 implementation

Draft timetable:

Priority Milestones and summary plan	Lead personnel	Target date
Trial the use of 'Team Around the School / setting ' (TAS) approach for B2 / C schools in readiness for support and challenge activity to explore viability	Senior SIA	Nov / Dec 2020
Gauge interest in leaders in school being part of the process (as a starting point)	Senior SIA	SIA day 20th
Identify aspects / content from the current SI strategy for potential inclusion / consideration for the new strategy	Head of Education Excellence Senior SIA and Education Excellence team	Jan 2021
Identify key personnel and invite to initial meeting – establish a Task and Finish Group and map activity	Senior SIA	Jan 2021
Formalise proposal, including consultation document and share through a Briefing Note (BN) with leaders	Head of Education Excellence Senior SIA and Education Excellence Team	Spring 2021
Write and brand agreed Education Excellence Strategy document for 2021-2024	Senior SIA and Communications team	Summer 1 2021
Consultation with elected Members including Cabinet portfolio holder and CYPF Scrutiny	Head of Education Excellence	Summer 2 2021
Formally publish and promote	Head of Education Excellence	Summer 1 / 2 2021
Hold information briefings on new approach, including sharing information at engagement session with attendance from wider teams as well as SIAs	Education Excellence Team	Summer 2 2021

Review

Following the implementation of the Education Excellence Strategy 2021 - 24, there will be a comprehensive review undertaken in the academic Summer Term 2022.