

Appendix A Summary of proposed change to the local authority governor appointment process.

1. Context and background

The Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel that was convened to inform the development of Barnet's Education Strategy considered evidence from a range of sources and stakeholders. In particular, the Panel considered the critical role of school governors in promoting, supporting and challenging the education system to achieve the very best for Barnet pupils. The Panel were concerned to learn about some delay in appointing local authority nominated governors in Barnet and heard evidence about instances of non-attendance or ineffectiveness of local authority nominated governors.

The Panel also considered evidence about how other local authority areas were responding to legislative changes, where for new governing bodies established since 1 September 2012, or where the instruments of a governing body is varied after this date, the decision to appoint a nominated local authority governor is now made by the school governing body.

Based on the evidence, the Panel proposed the adoption of a more streamlined approach and this commitment is set out in Barnet's Education Strategy.

2. Current practice in Barnet

The current process for appointing local authority nominated governors is as follows:

- In the first instance, nominations from political parties are invited for consideration by the Council
- If vacancies are not filled in a pre-determined time period of three months, the field of candidates is widened to incorporate applications from members of the local community, local groups and council employees
- Applications from the wider community are screened by Governor Services to the appointment criteria

3. Proposed new appointment process in Barnet

Learning from models elsewhere in London, the Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel proposed a revised process as follows

- A panel with one minority and one majority party councillor advised by the Governor Services Manager would be convened to make appointments. First preference would be given to Ward members who have put themselves forward. If a Ward Member is not put forward, other candidates will be considered by the Panel based on matching a candidates application form and CV with the particular skill requirements of the school's Governing Body.
- The proposed candidate (a Ward member or other) would be invited to visit the school to confirm that they understand the role and commitment required. the candidate is then appointed to a vacancy, either by the Director of Children's Service or by the Governing Body (where the new legislation requires this).

The report considered by General Functions Committee on the 14th October 2013 which contains examples of practice elsewhere in London can be found [here](#).