

	<h2>General Functions Committee</h2> <h3>23 June 2015</h3>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Vacancies on School Governing Bodies</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Head of Governance</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A - List of Ordinary Vacancies on School Governing Bodies</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Sarah Koniarski, Governance Officer sarah.koniarski@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 7574</p>

<h3>Summary</h3>
<p>The Committee is asked to make recommendations in respect of appointments to local authority governor vacancies on the school governing bodies listed in Appendix A.</p>

<h3>Recommendation</h3>
<p>That the Committee recommends appointments to fill the vacancies on school governing bodies listed in Appendix A.</p>

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Committee has a responsibility to recommend appointments to vacancies in respect of local authority governors on school governing bodies. This assists each school’s governing body to be fully constituted and exercise its duties in an efficient and effective manner.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 All state maintained primary, secondary and special schools are accountable to their governing bodies, which in turn are accountable to parents and the wider community. Schools manage the election of candidates to parent and staff governor vacancies. The relevant faith bodies appoint foundation governors in faith schools. The council, however, recommends candidates for appointment to local authority governor vacancies. The General Functions Committee (or Full Council where an urgent decision is required) is responsible for discharging this duty, having regard to each school's eligibility criteria.
- 2.2 Each school governing body will meet to consider the General Functions Committee's recommendations with a view to making appointments to the vacancies. It is for the appointing governing body to be confident that the candidate has the necessary skills, including the willingness and ability to learn and develop, as a governor. Following the governing body's decision, the school's clerk will inform the successful candidate of their appointment.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Not applicable

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The Governing Body Clerking Service will be notified of the committee's recommendations and assist the schools to facilitate the appointment process thereafter.
- 4.2 For local authority governor appointments to governing bodies which have reconstituted, a governing body should make clear its eligibility criteria including its expectations of the credentials and skills prospective candidates should possess. Local authorities must then make every effort to understand the governing body's requirements in order to identify and nominate suitable candidates. It is for the governing body to decide whether the local authority nominee meets any stated eligibility criteria and, if it chooses to reject the candidate on that basis, to explain their decision to the local authority.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 To ensure that the council has robust governance arrangements that enable the delivery of its objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan, its decision making structures will be kept under review to provide effective opportunities for resident participation and engagement.
- 5.1.2 Through the timely execution of its functions, the Committee can assist school governing bodies to fulfil their duties and contribute to the corporate priorities to make sure Barnet is a place:

- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
- where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
- where responsibility is shared, fairly
- where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer.

5.2 Resources (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 Responsibility for dealing with appointments of local authority representatives to school governing bodies is attributed to the General Functions Committee in accordance with Annex A to Responsibility for Functions. Section 1.8 of Responsibility for Functions, Functions of Full Council provides that Full Council can make appointments to school governing bodies where an urgent decision is required.

5.3.2 All governing bodies of maintained schools are required to be constituted under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 or the School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended by the School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 by 1 September 2015.

5.3.3 The governing body must not be smaller than seven members, and must include (subject to the requirements regarding foundation governors in qualifying foundation schools and voluntary aided schools):

- at least two parent governors;
- the headteacher unless the headteacher resigns as a governor;
- one, and only one, staff governor;
- one, and only one, local authority governor; and
- the governing body may appoint as many additional co-opted governors as they consider necessary.

However, the number of co-opted governors who are eligible to be elected or appointed as staff governors must not, when counted with the one staff governor and the headteacher, exceed one third of the total membership of the governing body.

5.3.4 In accordance with regulation 8 of the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012, local authority governors are nominated by the local authority but appointed by the governing body. The local authority can nominate any eligible person as a local authority governor, but it is for the governing body to decide whether their nominee has the skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school and meets any other eligibility criteria they have set. Local authorities should therefore make every effort to understand the governing body's requirements and identify and

nominate suitable candidates.

5.3.5 An individual eligible to be a staff governor at the school may not be appointed as a local authority governor.

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 All sectors of the community are eligible for nomination to the vacancies. It is expected that all political parties will promote equalities and diversity when making nominations to vacancies.

5.5.2 In delivering this Corporate Plan, the council's priorities and the actions it takes to deliver them will reflect our Strategic Equalities Objective which is that citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal access to quality services which provide value to the tax payer.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 Not applicable.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 The Constitution of Governing Bodies of Maintained Schools March 2015 - statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and local authorities in England.