

Meeting of Executive Members and Children's Services Advisory Panel

14 March 2007

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

Local Authority (LA) School Governors

Summary

1. This report provides information about the current position with regard to vacancies for LA seats on governing bodies, lists current nominations for those vacancies, as detailed in Annex One, and requests the appointment, or re-appointment, of the listed nominees

Background

2. The current position of each governing body regarding re-constitution is contained with the school details in Annex 1.
3. National benchmarking data on governor vacancies indicates a national average of 11% for LA governor vacancies. York has 1.1% LA vacancies at the time of writing this report.
4. Some vacancies will be generated by those existing governors not wishing to stand for a further term of office. The following table summarises the current position of LA vacancies and appointments in City of York schools.
5. Some updating of the database to include newly federated schools and to remove the previous separate governing bodies has resulted in changes to the total number of governors.

Total number of LA seats in City of York schools	178
Number of LA seats currently filled	164
Number of new LA appointments addressed by this paper	3 9 (subject to agreement by schools)
Number of LA reappointments addressed by this paper	0
Number of LA vacancies remaining after this paper (excluding those where a nominee has been identified)	2

Political affiliation of LA governors		
Party	Number of governors	Percentage of all LEA governors
Labour	16	9.8%
Lib Dem	19	11.7%
Conservative	2	1.2%
Green	2	1.2%
Independent	3	1.9%
Others	121	74.2%

Identification of vacancies

6. The overall picture of governor vacancies is informed by an accurate, detailed database, which includes records of all schools, the structure of their governing bodies, individuals who serve as governors and terms of office.
7. From the database can be determined such information as current vacancies and terms of office which are due to expire. In this way the Governance Service can clearly identify in advance the actions which are required and act accordingly.

Reviewing Vacancies

8. The vacancy position is under constant review. When potential new governors are identified the candidate is interviewed to discuss their interest and suitability. The Chair of Governors and headteacher are also asked to meet with the candidate and show him or her around the school prior to nomination for appointment. This allows the school to assess the potential candidate in terms of a good match for the needs of the governing body and current governors. This system, although slow, is working extremely well.
9. Where a term of office is due to expire, the individuals are contacted to ask whether they would like their name to be put forward again for reappointment. Chairs and headteachers are contacted to invite any relevant supporting information. Where a reappointment is appropriate, this is included on the nomination paper for consideration by the Executive member with the Advisory Panel.
10. All Local Authority governors are required to apply for an enhanced disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

Political Balance

11. In York the LA governor seats are filled on merit, rather than by strict consideration of political balance. Just under a third of LA governors are, in practice, linked to one of the political parties. Amongst this number there is a balance which very broadly reflects the political balance within the authority. As and when a situation arises in which any party has significantly more seats than their political representation would indicate to be appropriate,

steps may be taken to redress the balance over a period of time, whilst always considering the need to identify the best possible governor for a school, rather than taking account of individuals' political affiliation.

Consultation

12. Consultation on the nominations for appointment has been undertaken in accordance with the agreed procedure for the appointment of LA governors.

Options

Not applicable.

Analysis

Not applicable.

Corporate Priorities

This is a statutory function.

Implications

There are none.

Risk Management

There are no known risks associated with this paper.

Recommendations

The Executive Member is recommended to appoint LA Governors to fill vacant seats as proposed in Annex One.

REASON: to appoint school governors

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Report Approved**Date** 28.02.2007**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all***All** **Specialist Implications Officers**

None

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

None

Annexes

Annex 1 details the current position of LA governor vacancies and lists those governors who are being nominated for appointment.