
Meeting of Executive Members for Children's Services and Advisory Panel

8 June 2006

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. When considering LA vacancies, the Executive Member should be mindful that all governing bodies are required to reconstitute by 31 August 2006 under the terms of the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2003. Many governing bodies have decided when they would wish to adopt a new constitution; others have not only taken this decision, but also determined the size of the new governing body. The proportion of governors representing each category (eg parent, staff, LA and community) is set by law. Some governing bodies will, under their new constitution, have fewer LA places and it is important that this is considered when making new LA appointments.
3. The current position of each governing body regarding re-constitution is contained with the school details in Annex 1.
4. Under the transitional arrangements of the new regulations, the term of office of any governor elected or appointed after 1 September 2003 will end on the date of reconstitution.
5. National benchmarking data on governor vacancies indicates a national LA average of 11% for LA governor vacancies. York has 2% LA vacancies at the time of writing this report. 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.

Total number of LA seats in City of York schools	172	
Number of LA seats currently filled (including vacancies held pending reconstitution)	164	
Number of new LA appointments addressed by this paper	2	
Number of LA reappointments addressed by this paper	5	
Number of LA vacancies remaining after this paper (excluding those held pending reconstitution and those where a nominee has been identified)	4 (2%)	
Political affiliation of LA governors		
Party	Number of governors	Percentage of all LEA governors
Labour	21	13.5%
Lib Dem	23	15%
Conservative	3	2%
Green	2	2%
Others	104	67.5%

Identification of vacancies

6. The overall process 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 contacted to discuss their interest and suitability. The Chair of Governors and headteacher are also contacted to discuss the potential candidate in terms of a good match for the needs of the governing body and current governors. This is particularly of value at the present time whilst governing bodies are considering re-constitution under the terms of the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2003. When an appropriate vacancy has been identified, the potential candidate is nominated for appointment by the Executive Member with the Advisory Panel.
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 ascertain 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.

Political Balance

10. 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.

Options

11. To enable the effective reconstitution of all governing bodies as required by the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulation 2003, the single option is to appoint or re-appoint LA governors to fill vacant seats.

Consultation

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

Implications

13. There are no known implications for the following:

- Financial -
- Human Resources
- Equalities
- Crime & Disorder
- Information Technology
- Property

Legal

14. To ensure that governing bodies can be reconstituted by 31 August 2006 under the terms of the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulation 2003.

Risk Management

15. There are no known risks associated with this paper.

Recommendations

16. The Executive Member is recommended to appoint, or re-appoint, LA Governors to fill vacant seats as proposed in Annex One.

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Report Approved

Date 30 May 2006

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Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

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 or re-appointment.