

BRIEFING REPORT FOR INFORMATION	SCRUTINY PANEL
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TITLE	Process for appointing local authority governors
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1. SUMMARY

This briefing report has been written in response to a request from the Scrutiny Panel for an explanation of the local authority’s process for appointing local authority governors. It seeks to describe the process, and to answer a number of specific questions which have been asked.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Governing bodies are the key strategic decision-making bodies for schools. It is the governing body’s role to set a school’s strategic framework and to ensure that all statutory duties are met. The DfE’s school governance regulations identify three core functions consistent with the strategic role of the governing body. These are to:

- set the vision and strategic direction of the school
- hold the headteacher to account for its educational performance; and
- ensure financial resources are well spent.

2.2 The governing body of a maintained school must include one, and only one, local authority governor.

2.3 Local authority governors must have:

- an interest in the education and wellbeing of all children
- the skills and desire to make a difference
- a willingness to accept responsibility
- an ability to work in a team, ask questions, listen and learn
- time and commitment to undertake the duties of a governor
- a commitment to fulfil the Nolan principles which relate to Standards in Public Life.

3. DETAIL (in response to the specific questions asked)

3.1 The local authority’s process for the selection and nomination of local authority governors was revised in 2014, in order to take into account the DfE’s latest statutory guidance and advice – *The school governance regulations January 2014* and *The constitution of governing bodies of maintained schools May 2014*. Further details can be found in the Report of the Director of People – *Revised process for the selection and nomination of local authority governors October 2014*. It was approved by Cabinet Member and is published on the Council’s website.

3.2 When a vacancy occurs for a local authority governor, the relevant governing body

identifies the necessary skills, knowledge and experience that would be required of the successful candidate. All potential applicants (including re-appointments) are required to complete an application form identifying their skills, knowledge and experience.

- 3.3 The Governor Services team collates the information required, enabling a report of the Director of Learning, Skills and Culture (*Appointment/re-appointment of local authority school governors*) to be put before the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning. The Cabinet Member considers the information provided and decides whether to nominate individual applicants for appointment/re-appointment to the governing bodies – as detailed in the report. The governing body decides whether the nominee meets their requirements. The governing body may choose to reject or appoint the candidate accordingly.
- 3.4 The statutory guidance indicates that a key consideration in the appointment/re-appointment of all governors should be the match between the skills, knowledge and experience identified by the governing body for the effective governance and success of the school, and those of the applicant. It also sets out the grounds for disqualification.
- 3.5 The decision to nominate an individual for approval/re-appointment as a Local Authority governor rests with the Cabinet Member and is not open to appeal.
- 3.6 Current vacancies for all categories of governors are listed on the Council website. This information is updated on a monthly basis. As of 8 March, there were 11 local authority governor vacancies.

4. IMPLICATIONS (SERVICE, RESOURCES – Financial, Staffing, Property, IT) PR.

No implications identified.

5. CONCLUSION (Current position for noting, further proposals and future action)

The local authority’s process for appointing local authority governors is compliant with the regulations and statutory guidance published by the DfE.

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Approved by Director	Peter Thorpe
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