

**TO: CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL  
17 APRIL 2013**

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## **WORKING GROUP UPDATE REPORT**

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress achieved to date by the working group of the Panel reviewing school governance.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **That the Panel notes the progress achieved to date by its working group reviewing school governance.**

### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To keep the Panel up to date regarding the activities of its School Governance Working Group.

### **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 None.

### **5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### School Governance

- 5.1 The Panel established this Working Group to review school governance in Bracknell Forest's schools with a view to identifying areas for improvement in the light of the new Ofsted framework which places greater emphasis on the role of school governors and governance arrangements.
- 5.2 The first meeting of the Working Group took place on 13 September 2012 when Members received an introductory briefing from officers, discussed extracts from Ofsted inspections of the Borough's schools relating to governance and considered the scope of the review. The Working Group subsequently agreed the scope and prepared questionnaires for link, parent and chairmen of governors. The questionnaires were used to gain the views of governors on matters including skills gaps in governing bodies, the self-evaluation toolkit and succession planning for chairmen. Governors' views were also gathered at the Link Governors Forum and at arranged meetings with parent and chairmen of governors. The Working Group has considered the outcomes of meetings with governors and their responses to the questionnaires and is beginning to form some conclusions. The Working Group has also considered the effect of new legislation on governing bodies and discussed the best approach to undertaking a skills audit of governors.
- 5.3 The Working Group is currently gathering information concerning the structure and composition of full governing bodies of local schools, including the structure review

frequency and headteachers' views on the effectiveness of the structures. It also proposes to meet the Director of Children, Young People and Learning at its next meeting to discuss its early findings.

**6      **ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS / EQUALITIES  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT / STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES /  
CONSULTATION****

6.1      Not applicable.

Background Papers

None.

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