

TO: COUNCIL
30 APRIL 2014

**APPOINTMENT OF PARENT GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMISSION AND THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE &
LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

Director of Corporate Services – Democratic and Registration Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Legislation stipulates that local authorities operating executive arrangements must appoint at least two and not more than five parent governor representatives to each Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) committee and sub-committee whose functions relate wholly or partly to any education functions.
- 1.2 The Children, Young People & Learning O&S Panel has responsibility for these functions. The O&S Commission also shares some responsibility for these functions. A vacancy for a secondary school parent governor has arisen following the resignation of Mrs Carol Murray.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That Council appoints Ms Linda Wellsted as a parent governor representative to the Overview & Scrutiny Commission for a term of office of four years and endorses the Commission Chairman's recommendation to appoint Ms Linda Wellsted to the Children, Young People & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure that through this representative, parents are able to represent to the local authority the main education issues which concern parents or pupils of schools maintained by the Authority and to feedback to parents the Authority's discussions of, and decisions on, education.
- 3.2 The Council is responsible for appointing parent governor representatives to the O&S Commission. The Children, Young People & Learning O&S Panel is a sub-committee of the O&S Commission and therefore the O&S Commission is recommended to appoint to its O&S panels as appropriate.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 On 17 July 2008, the Overview & Scrutiny Commission agreed that two parent governors should be appointed to both the Children, Young People and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Panel previously known as Social Care & Learning and the Overview & Scrutiny Commission respectively, one primary school and one secondary school parent governor, with a term of office of four years each.

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- 5.2 One vacancy currently exists on the Children, Young People & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Panel and the Overview & Scrutiny Commission respectively, for a secondary school parent governor representative. This vacancy arose as a result of the resignation of Carol Murray as a parent governor representative in July 2013. In line with the Parent Governor Representative (England) Regulations 2001 and the Supplementary Guidance, in November 2012, letters were sent to all parent governors in the Borough inviting nominations for the vacancy and the opportunity to participate in local decision making was promoted through the Council's web pages and the Governor newsletter.
- 5.3 Letters were sent to all secondary parent governors in September 2013 inviting them to nominate to this vacancy, however no nominations were received by the closing date. Letters were again sent out on 10 January 2014 and one nomination was received by the deadline of 28 February 2014 which prevented the need for a postal ballot. The successful nominee was Linda Wellsted who is currently a parent governor at Brakenhale School.
- 5.4 The appointment will run for a four year term ending on 30 April 2018 unless the nominee is no longer eligible to be the representative.
- 5.5 The Overview & Scrutiny Commission are meeting on 1 May 2014. The Overview & Scrutiny Commission Chairman has recommended subject to Council's decision, to appoint Linda Wellsted to the Children, Young People & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel. This will be confirmed at the Commission meeting on 1 May 2014 in preparation for the 11 June 2014 meeting of the Children, Young People & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel and is supported by its Chairman, Councillor Mrs Birch.
- 5.6 Parent governor representatives are nominated and elected by fellow parent governors and have voting rights relating to any education matter considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Commission or the Children, Young People & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
- 5.7 The role of a parent governor representative is to:
- act as an apolitical voice for parents in the area; representing to the local authority the main education issues which concern parents or pupils of schools maintained by the Authority,
 - liaise with other parent governors at their own Authority,
 - attend and contribute to the meetings of the committees to which they are appointed,
 - establish good relations with other members and officers,
 - feedback to parents the Authority's discussions of, and decisions on, education,
 - abide by the Council rules on committee procedure; and
 - act with due propriety according to standards laid down for conduct in local government.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The Parent Governor Representative (England) Regulations 2001 require between two and five parent governor representatives to be appointed to an overview and

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scrutiny committee or sub-committee having education within its remit. Such representatives are to be elected in accordance with regulations.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 Parent governor representatives are eligible to claim an allowance of £291 per annum as well as being eligible to claim travel expenses when attending meetings or training outside of the borough. The cost can be met from within existing budgets.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 None.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 None

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Secondary Parent Governors.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Letters, internet promotion and Parent Governor Newsletter.

Representations Received

- 7.3 One nomination received.

Background Papers

Parent Governor Representative (England) Regulations 2001

Contact for further information

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