

## Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

**Meeting:** Children, Families & Schools Sub-Committee

**Date:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2005

**Report of:** Director of Children, Families and Schools

**Subject:** School Governance Issues

**Wards affected:** All

### 1. Purpose of the report

1.1 This report sets out the decisions of the consultative meeting for the appointment of LEA governors which met on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October & Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2005 and reports on governor recruitment and retention

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 That the decisions made by the Director of Children, Families & Schools in consultation with the Chair, Deputy Chair and Opposition Spokesperson of this Sub-Committee, as set out in Appendix B are noted.

2.2 That the committee is asked to note the changes to governing bodies and consider any additional methods of recruiting governors.

### 3. Information/background

3.1 The group considered applications for LEA governor vacancies at schools and made the appointments set out in the Appendix B.

3.2 A summary of responses to exit questionnaires completed by governors when they resign or come to the end of their term of office

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 All councilors, chairs of governors and headteachers at schools with vacancies were asked to submit nominations. Chairs of governors, headteachers and members of this sub-committee were fully consulted about nominations and invited to submit comments to the consultative meeting.

## COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX A



<b>Meeting/Date</b>	<b>Children, Families &amp; Schools Sub-Committee</b>
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Director of Children, Families &amp; Schools</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Appointment of LEA Governors</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>

### **Financial implications**

The cost of appointment of LEA governors is met from the existing budget for convening the meetings, and all costs associated met from the existing budget.

*Finance Officer consulted: Andy Moore Principal Accountant Date: 02/03/05*

### **Legal implications**

Legal requirements relating to the appointment of LEA governors are set out in Schedule 11 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Education (School Government) (England) Regulations 1999.

At the meeting of the Education Strategic Planning Functions Sub-committee on 16 June 1999, it was agreed that all LEA governor appointments would be made by the Director, Children, Families & Schools, in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokesperson. Copies of reports were to be sent to all Sub-Committee members and decisions reported back for information

Changes to the composition and procedures of governing bodies must be instituted within the Regulations referred to in the main body of the report.

The new Instruments of Government required by the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2003, have to be sealed by the Council's legal section.

*Lawyer consulted: Natasha Watson (Senior Lawyer) Date: 02/03/05*

<p><b>Corporate/Citywide implications</b> None.</p>	<p><b>Risk assessment</b> All prospective governors are required to sign an agreement to undertake a Criminal Records Bureau check if requested. All LEA governor appointments are checked against List 99.</p>
<p><b>Sustainability implications</b> None.</p>	<p><b>Equalities implications</b> Applications are encouraged from all sections of the population but specific efforts are being made to encourage applications from members of ethnic minority groups and people with disabilities.</p>

**COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX A**



<b>Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder</b> None.	

<b>Background papers</b> Exit Questionnaire Summary	
<b>Contact Officer</b> Rose Wisdom Governor Support Officer Tel: 293507	

## COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX A



<b>School</b>	<b>Appointments</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> October 2004	
<b>Bevendean Primary</b>	<b>Derek Hill</b>
<b>Hangleton Infants</b>	<b>Martin Stapleton</b>
<b>Hertford Juniors</b>	<b>Wenda Bradley</b>
<b>Patcham High</b>	<b>Ray Blackwood</b>
<b>Patcham Juniors</b>	<b>Elisabeth Brooks</b>
<b>Queens Park Primary</b>	<b>Selma Stafford</b>
<b>Saltdean Primary</b>	<b>Judith Earthy Michael Hirst</b>
<b>St Peter's Community Infant</b>	<b>Gerard Cotton</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> February 2005	
<b>Aldrington CE</b>	<b>Ruth Lewis</b>
<b>Benfield Junior</b>	<b>Cllr Robert Carden</b>
<b>Dorothy Stringer</b>	<b>Dr Alan Sanders Derek Swindells</b>
<b>Downs Junior</b>	<b>Kate Dorrian</b>
<b>Downs View</b>	<b>Hazel Upward</b>
<b>Fairlight Primary</b>	<b>Robert Cristofoli Hazel Malpass Doris Ndebele</b>
<b>Hangleton Junior</b>	<b>John Richards</b>
<b>Hangleton Infant</b>	<b>Ann Gilham</b>
<b>Patcham Junior</b>	<b>Christopher Dolan</b>
<b>St Lukes Junior</b>	<b>Anthony Feek</b>
<b>St Martin's CE</b>	<b>Caroline Townend</b>
<b>West Hove Junior</b>	<b>Christine Jefferson</b>

**COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX A**



## Exit Questionnaire Summary

### 1. February 04-April 04

10 responses (most respondents had been governors for 5 years or less)

#### MOST ENJOYED ABOUT BEING A GOVERNOR

- Being part of a team and involved in making decisions for the future of the school and children
- Gaining an understanding for how school works and implementing change

**Summary:** What people really valued was being involved with the school and being part of a team, working together for the school and pupils

#### LEAST ENJOYED ABOUT BEING A GOVERNOR

- Not having enough time to properly fulfill role
- Rubber stamping decisions already taken by school and LEA – no real power
- Lack of time and length of meetings

**Summary:** Lack of real decision-making authority was a cause for concern. There was limited scope for using own initiative

### 2. May 04-August 04

16 responses (most respondents had been governors between 1-4 years)

#### MOST ENJOYED ABOUT BEING A GOVERNOR

- Knowledge and experience of behind the scenes grasp of life and management of school
- Being part of team
- Working with the children

**Summary:** Most enjoyed doing something worthwhile

#### LEAST ENJOYED ABOUT BEING A GOVERNOR

- Too high work load
- Being responsible for finances

**Summary** of reasons for no longer serving: Too much work and too time consuming. Also personal reasons and change of circumstances

#### General comments:

- ‘Lobby the Government for more money’
- ‘I can’t speak highly enough of consistent supportive and prompt help and advice from the Governor Support Team. This is a major asset to Brighton & Hove’

**COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX C**

