

By: Alex King – Deputy Leader of the Council
Peter Sass – Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Selection and Member Services Committee – 23 January 2009

Subject: PROPOSED ADDITIONAL GUIDELINE FOR LEA-APPOINTED GOVERNORS

Classification: Unrestricted

File Ref: LL/12/08

Summary: To consider an additional Guideline for LEA-appointed Governors.

FOR DECISION

Introduction

1. The Guidelines for the Appointment of Local Education Authority (LEA) Governors is attached at Appendix A to this report. They contain a number of categories where the LEA should not make an appointment. Circumstances have recently come to light which are not contained within these Guidelines.
2. A parent of a child who had been unsuccessful when standing for election as a parent governor, subsequently submitted a nomination as a LEA Governor at the same school.
3. The purpose of an LEA-appointed Governor is to represent the strategic perspective of the Authority, assisting the School concerned to provide the most efficient educational service possible within the overarching framework of the LEA's duty to all the pupils in the County.
4. It is considered that a parent of a child attending a particular School, whilst being excellently placed to become a parent governor, would not be best suited to the role of an LEA Governor for exactly the same reasons that teachers, supply teachers, ex-teachers and head teachers or voluntary helpers are normally not considered. Namely, that they run the risk of under-representing the LEA's strategic perspective due to their personal commitment to the interests of the School that they wish to serve.

Conclusion

5. It is surprising that the circumstances described have never arisen before. Nevertheless, it would be inconsistent with the County Council's approach to the appointment of LEA Governors if a parent of a child educated at a particular school were to simultaneously act as its representative on that school's governing body. A report to this effect was considered by the Governor Appointments Panel on 5 December 2008. The Panel agreed to recommend the proposed amendment to this Committee.

Recommendation

6. I recommend that the guidelines should be amended by the insertion of a new guideline (h) to read:-

“A parent eligible for election as a parent governor should not be considered for appointment to the governing body of any school attended by one of their own children.”

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership
01622 694002

Background Documents
None.