

From: **David Brazier, Chairman of the Governor Appointments Panel**  
**Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills**  
**Geoff Wild, Director of Governance and Law**

To: **Governor Appointments Panel – 21 November 2014**

Subject: **Future arrangements for the Governor Appointments Panel**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

**Electoral Division: All**

**Summary:**

This report takes into account the revised arrangements for the nomination of Local Authority Governors and sets out possible arrangements (for recommendation to Selection and Member Services Committee) to make the process more efficient without requiring Panel Members to travel to County Hall unnecessarily from different parts of the County.

## **1. Background**

1.1 Changes to school governance constitution regulations in September 2012 reduced the number of local authority governors on a single governing body to **‘one, and only one’**. Under the 2012 regulations, the local authority role is redefined to one of ‘nominating a suitably skilled individual’ for the role, with the governing body ‘making’ the appointment at school level.

1.2 All maintained schools are required to reconstitute under the 2012 regulations by September 2015, if they have not already done so. As a consequence, the number of nominations to serve as local authority governors will reduce considerably.

## **2. The impact on the Governor Appointments Panel**

2.1 The Governor Appointments Panel is a Sub-Committee of Selection and Member Services Committee, exercising on its behalf the responsibility for the appointment or removal of Authority Governors. The Panel has only needed to consider 1 application for the removal of a governor over the past 10 years.

2.2 The Governor Appointments Panel meets on six occasions each year. Historically, each meeting has considered between 40 and 60 nominations, including up to ten where the candidates have in some way not conformed to the guidelines for appointment set by Selection and Member Services Committee. On occasions, the Panel has needed to choose between one or more candidates for the same position.

2.3 The most recent meeting of the Panel considered 17 nominations. None of these in any way breached the guidelines. Members of the Panel commented that

they had been required to travel to County Hall from different parts of the County in order to attend a meeting which had not required them to perform anything meaningful duty. It was considered more than likely that such a situation might occur on a number of future occasions.

### **3. Proposed change to the process**

3.1 The Governor Appointments Panel asked officers to propose a course of action that would make the process for appointment of governors more efficient without compromising the right of Members to make decisions that require the exercise of judgement.

3.2 The most promising course of action to achieve this goal would be for Selection and Member Services Committee to give delegated powers to the Corporate Director of Education, Learning and Skills (in consultation with the Chairman of the Governor Appointments Panel) to make all appointments where the nominated governor meets the guidelines in full. This would enable the Panel meetings to be cancelled unless there were requests to consider exceptions. A report setting out those appointments made under delegated powers would be given to each Panel meeting that took place.

### **4. Recommendation(s)**

#### **Recommendation(s):**

The Panel is invited to agree the recommendations set out in paragraph 3.2 above for approval by Selection and Member Services Committee.

Lee Round  
School Governance Officer  
03000 412309  
[lee.round@kent.gov.uk](mailto:lee.round@kent.gov.uk)

Andrew Tait  
Democratic Services Officer  
01622 694342  
[andrew.tait@kent.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.tait@kent.gov.uk)