

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 – 29 April 2016**

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

Classification: **Unrestricted**

**Electoral Division: All**

**Summary:**

This report sets out a proposed revision to the arrangements for the nomination of Local Authority Governors for recommendation to Selection and Member Services Committee.

## **1. Background**

1.1 On 26 January 2016 the Selection and Member Services Committee gave 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 and nominations of Local Authority Governors where the nominated governor meets the guidelines in full. This decision enabled Panel meetings to be cancelled unless there were requests to consider exceptions. A copy of the report to Selection and Member Services is attached at **Appendix 1**.

1.2 One of the consequences of this decision is that Panel meetings are taking place to consider only a very small number of exceptions. The last two meetings have considered one exception each. Some Panel Members have expressed the view that this represents an unnecessary use of resources as it still involves Members travelling to County Hall in order to participate in what is often a very short meeting indeed.

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

2.1 In response to these concerns, officers have sought to identify a mechanism which enables Members to retain the ability to exercise their judgement when required to do so whilst avoiding an excess of meetings which contribute little to the work of the County Council.

2.2 The most appropriate course of action to achieve this goal would be for Selection and Member Services Committee to extend delegated powers to the Corporate Director of Education, Learning and Skills to make or refuse to make an appointment in circumstances where the nominated individual does not meet the guidelines in full, *providing that* all Members of the Governor Appointments Panel are in agreement with the Corporate Director's decision.

2.3 If the Selection and Member Services Committee were to adopt the above process, the means of carrying it out would normally be through email communication. The School Governance Officer would set out the name of the individual applicant together with the guideline which is not met in full. An explanation of the circumstances would also be given, including any accompanying papers, together with the grounds for her recommended course of action. Each Member would be asked to reply to her within two weeks of the date of the initial communication to them. In the event that the Panel Members all indicated their agreement on a course of action, this would be recorded and the Corporate Director would be invited to exercise delegated powers accordingly. A record of the decision would be retained and formally reported at the next meeting of the Panel. If it proved impossible to obtain a reply from one or more Panel Members, the Panel would need to meet formally on the next date scheduled.

2.4 This would enable Panel meetings to be cancelled unless there was a disagreement amongst Members in respect of a particular nominee or the Corporate Director disagreed with the unanimous views of the Panel Members. If this was the case, the nomination would be considered at the next scheduled meeting of the Panel.

2.5 Decisions on a request to remove a school governor would not be affected by the proposed revision.

### 3. **Recommendation(s)**

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

The Panel is invited to agree the recommendations set out in paragraph 2.2 above for approval by Selection and Member Services Committee.

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