

From: **David Brazier, Chairman of the Governor Appointments Panel**
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Geoff Wild, Director of Governance and Law

To: **Selection and Member Services Committee - 26 January 2015**

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 a recommendation from the Governor Appointments Panel to make more efficient use of its time. The report also sets out a consequential amendment to the Constitution arising out of the new regulations reported to the Committee on 8 October 2014 and asks the Committee to formally delegate the nomination of governors function to the Governor Appointments Panel.

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. The Local Authority retains the right to appoint additional governors where a school is eligible for intervention. This new function requires a consequential amendment to the terms of reference of this Committee to read:

*"(e) the appointment of, **nomination of suitably skilled individuals as, or removal of, LEA governors to school governing bodies...**"*

1.2 It is recommended that the nomination of individuals function be delegated to the Governor Appointments Panel.

1.3 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 in the meantime.

2. The impact on the Governor Appointments Panel

2.1 The Governor Appointments Panel is a sub-committee of the Selection and Member Services Committee, exercising on its behalf the responsibility for the appointment or removal of local authority governors. The Panel has only needed to consider one application for the removal of a governor over the past 10 years.

2.2 The Governor Appointments Panel meets on six occasions each year. Each meeting typically considers between 40-60 nominations, including up to ten where the candidates have in some way not conformed to the guidelines for appointment set by the 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 two most recent meetings of the Panel considered a total of 43 nominations. Only one of these failed to conform to the guidelines. Members of the Panel agreed that they were being unnecessarily asked to travel to County Hall from different parts of the county to attend meetings that did not require them to exercise their judgement. The Panel considers it more than likely that such a situation will occur on a number of future occasions.

3. Proposed change to the process

3.1 The Governor Appointments Panel met on 21 November 2014 and agreed to recommend to the Selection and Member Services Committee that it 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 future appointments to governing bodies where the nominated governor meets the guidelines in full.

3.2 The Panel's aim is to enable its meetings to be cancelled if there are no requests to consider exceptions. This would make the process more efficient without compromising the right of Members to make decisions that require the exercise of judgement.

3.3 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):

4.1 The Committee is invited to

- (a) agree to vary its terms of reference to include the nomination of suitably skilled individuals to governing bodies;
- (b) delegate the function of nominating suitably skilled individuals to the Governor Appointments Panel; and

(c) delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Education, Learning and Skills (in consultation with the Chairman of the Governor Appointments Panel) to make all appointments to governing bodies where the nominee meets the guidelines in full.

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