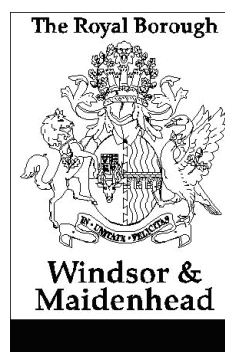


Report for: ACTION



<b>Contains Confidential or Exempt Information</b>	YES – Appendix A Part II (Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.)
<b>Title</b>	Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Governing Bodies of Schools in the Royal Borough
<b>Responsible Officer(s)</b>	David Scott, Head of Governance, Partnerships, Performance & Policy
<b>Contact officer, job title and phone number</b>	Karen Shepherd, Democratic Services Manager, 01628 796529
<b>Member reporting</b>	Cllr Bicknell, Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>For Consideration By</b>	Cabinet Local Authority Governors Appointments Sub Committee
<b>Date to be Considered</b>	28 January 2016
<b>Implementation Date if Not Called In</b>	Immediately
<b>Affected Wards</b>	Bisham & Cookham, Bray, Cox Green, Datchet

## REPORT SUMMARY

1. This report deals with vacancies that have arisen or will shortly arise for Local Authority (LA) representatives on school governing bodies within the Royal Borough, and of nominations that have been received, so that appointments/recommendations may be made.
2. It also considers the role of LA representatives to governing bodies of Academies where appropriate.
3. It recommends that all applications are fully considered and the most suitable applicants are appointed/reappointed or recommended as appropriate.
4. These recommendations are being made in order that the LA may be represented on school governing bodies.
5. There are no financial implications for the Council.
6. Full details of candidates seeking appointment are given in Part II, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. All appointments should be made in accordance with the Cabinet LA Governors Appointments Sub Committee terms of reference.

<b>If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit?</b>	
Benefits to residents and reasons why they will benefit	Dates by which residents can expect to notice a difference
1. LA representation on schools' governing bodies will maintain the link between the LA and Borough schools and, where appropriate, Academies.	Immediately

## 1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i. **All applications for The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Schools and Academies are fully considered.**
- ii. **The most suitable applicants are either appointed/reappointed or recommended for appointment /reappointment.**
- iii. **The approach taken by Academies within The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in relation to the Local Authority governor representative role be noted, as detailed in paragraph 2.6.**

## 2. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 These recommendations are being made in order that the Local Authority may be represented on school governing bodies.

<b>Option</b>	<b>Comments</b>
To select/recommend an appropriate applicant from those included to be recruited to the corresponding vacancy. <b>This is the recommended option.</b>	If it is deemed that the skills and knowledge of the applicants meet the needs of the schools it will be an advantage to the governance resource of that school to endorse the application immediately.
To defer some/all appointments/recommendations to a future meeting. This is not recommended.	The DfE recommends that appointments should normally be made to fill vacancies within three months. Any deferral could delay this process.
To note the approach taken by each Academy in relation to the LA governor representative role. <b>This is the recommended option.</b>	There is no requirement for Academies to have an LA governor representative. However, if they choose to do so, there can be no more than 1 LA governor representative on the Academy's governing body.

### **Applications received and LA vacancies to-date**

- 2.2 Local Authority Governor vacancies where appointment is made by the Cabinet LA Governors Appointments Sub Committee are set out in table 1.

**Table 1: Sub-committee appointments**

School	Ward	Name of Applicant(s)	Number of Vacancies	Vacant Since	Comment
Datchet St Mary C of E Primary (Academy)	Datchet	No applicant	1	11 December 2014	Position being advertised

- 2.3 LA Governor vacancies where the Cabinet LA Governors Appointments Sub Committee may make recommendations to the School Governing Body under the statutory guidance on School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012, are set out in table 2.

**Table 2: Sub-committee recommendations**

School	Ward	Name of Applicant(s)	Number of Vacancies	Vacant Since	Comment
Churchmead C of E School*	Datchet	No applicant	1	17 December 2014	Position being advertised
Braywood C of E First School	Bray	Heidi Berry	1	12 May 2015	Feedback received from School.
Wessex Primary School	Cox Green	Liz Herod	1	7 September 2015	Feedback received from School.
Cookham Dean C of E Primary School	Bisham & Cookham	Olivia Burton	1	28 November 2015	Awaiting feedback from School.  School contacted 14 January 2016.

\*This position is on the Shadow Governing Body

#### **Governors seeking re-appointment**

- 2.4 There are no Local Authority governors reaching the end of their current term of office, see table 3. When a LA Governor is nearing the end of their term a letter is sent to the governor inviting them to apply for re-appointment for a further term of office. In accordance with the terms of reference, current post holders are not required to complete a further application form.

**Table 3: LA Governors term of office ending**

School	Ward	Term Ends	Applicants	Comment
None				

- 2.5 If the Sub Committee resolve to appoint/recommend where candidates are available, the vacancy rate will be 4.4% of all LA governors.

**Academies' approach regarding the retention of LA appointed governors**

- 2.6 There is no requirement for Academies to have an LA governor representative. However, if they choose to do so, there can be no more than 1 LA governor representative on the Academy's governing body as per Department for Education (DfE) guidance. The Sub Committee is therefore requested to note the approach taken by each Academy as detailed in table 4.

**Table 4: Academy approach to LA governor appointments**

<b>Academy</b>	<b>LA Governors Prior to Conversion to Academy Status</b>	<b>Academies' Approach Regarding the Retention of LA Appointed Governors</b>
Cox Green	Gwenda Lilley	Cox Green have decided not to retain the LA governor position. Gwenda Lilley has been co-opted onto the board of governors.
Desborough	Derek Wilson	Desborough have decided not to retain the LA governor position. Derek Wilson has been co-opted on to the board of governors.

**3. KEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1

<b>Defined Outcomes</b>	<b>Unmet</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Exceeded</b>	<b>Significantly Exceeded</b>	<b>Date they should be delivered by</b>
Recommendations for appointment to vacant LA Governor positions on a School/Academy governing body made where at least one applicant has applied or been requested	<100%	100%	n/a	n/a	8 February 2016

**4. FINANCIAL DETAILS**

**Financial impact on the budget**

	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
	Revenue £'000	Revenue £'000	Revenue £'000

	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Addition	£0	£0	£0
Reduction	£0	£0	£0

	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
	Capital £'000	Capital £'000	Capital £'000
Addition	£0	£0	£0
Reduction	£0	£0	£0

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Local Authorities are entitled to representation on the Governing Bodies (GB) of maintained schools in accordance with the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012. LA's are entitled to have only one LA governor on each Governing Body. A person may not be appointed as an LA governor if they are entitled to be a staff governor. The guidance at Part 5Q of the Royal Borough Constitution on the appointment of school governors is in line with this.
- 5.2 The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 SI 2012/1034 regulations provide that for any GB:
- (i) constituted under an Instrument of Governance (IoG) that takes effect after 1 September 2012; or
  - (ii) constituted under an IoG that took effect before 1 September 2012 who properly decide to vary that IoG post 1 September 2012 the Local Authority (LA) may only nominate a person to be appointed as a LA representative on that GB but that it would be the GB themselves who would decide whether the nominee meets the GB eligibility criteria i.e. the GB do not have to appoint the LA's appointed nominee.
- N.B. the GB, as a public body, would be subject to the principles of public law i.e. any decision to reject a LA nominee would have to be reasonable and in accordance with any policy and eligibility criteria that they may have, which would also have to be reasonable.
- 5.3 In relation to Academies, there is no formal legal advice on the issue of LA governors, but there is informal guidance from the DfE. This states there is no obligation for the Academy to agree to include an LA governor in the governing body, but if they do so, then there can only be one and the LA can decide upon the specific identity of the LA governor.
- 5.4 In the first instance of an Academy being established, a trust/governing body will need to make sure that at any one time the number of LA associated persons is not greater than 20% of the total number of governors/members. If this is the case then those governors/members who are deemed to be LA associated persons will have to resign in order of their appointment date – the most recently appointed resigning first.

## 6. VALUE FOR MONEY

- 6.1 LA representation helps to ensure the management of a school by its governing body maintains a focus on value for money.

## 7. SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT APPRAISAL

- 7.1 There are no sustainability implications by virtue of the recommendations.

## 8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Uncontrolled Risk</b>	<b>Controls</b>	<b>Controlled Risk</b>
LA will not be represented on school governing bodies	Medium	Continuous advertising & promotion of vacancies plus monitoring of current LA governors' term of office end dates	Low

## 9. LINKS TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 9.1 The recommendations link to the following strategic objectives:
- Supporting Children & Young People (Residents First)
  - Strengthen partnerships (Delivering Together)

## 10. EQUALITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY COHESION

- 10.1 None. EQIA not required.

## 11. STAFFING/WORKFORCE AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 None.

## 12. PROPERTY AND ASSETS

- 12.1 None.

## 13. ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 None.

## 14. CONSULTATION

- 14.1 Governing bodies are invited to comment on candidates' suitability for reappointment and to submit nominations to fill these and any casual vacancies that arise. Where a school has expressed a view, this is noted in the candidate's details as listed in Part II.
- 14.2 Following the closing date for receipt of applications, those applicants who have not requested one particular school are matched to current vacancies, taking account of a variety of factors including any expressed requirements or preferences of both schools and candidates, and the proximity of a school to a candidate's home or business address. As far as possible, schools and applicants are then contacted to discuss options available and to ascertain that they have no objection to the recommendation proposed.
- 14.3 All Members will receive email notification when the Sub Committee agenda is published.

## 15. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

15.1

Date	Details
8 February 2016	On appointment or recommendation for appointment (subject to call-in) successful applicants and the relevant governing body are notified of the appointment in writing.
Ongoing following appointment	All new governors are provided with full training by Governor Services.

## 16. APPENDICES

- 16.1 Appendix A – Full details regarding candidates seeking appointment (Part II in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998).

## 17. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

17.1 N/A

## 18. CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
<b>Internal</b>				
Cllr Burbage	Leader of the Council	14 January 2016	14 January	

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
			2016	
Cllr Bicknell	Lead Member for Education	11 & 14 January 2016	12 & 14 January 2016	
Michaela Rizou	Cabinet Policy Assistant	11 January 2016	13 January 2016	
Alison Alexander	Managing Director / Strategic Director, Adult, Children and Health Services	7 January 2016	7 January 2016	In document
David Scott	Head of Governance, Partnerships, Performance and Policy	6 January 2016	7 January 2016	
Kevin McDaniel	Head of Schools & Educational Services	6 January 2016	6 January 2016	
	Legal	15 December 2015	24 December 2015	5
External – N/A				

## REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?
Key decision – (September 2015)	No

Full name of report author	Job title	Full contact no:
Karen Shepherd	Democratic Services Manager	01628 796529