

MAYOR AND CABINET			
Report Title	Local Authority Governor Nominations		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	
Ward	Lee Green, New Cross, Lewisham Central, Downham, Ladywell, Crofton Park, Bellingham		
Contributors	Executive Director for Children and Young People Head of Law		
Class	Part 1	Date:	6 June 2018

1. Summary

- 1.1 In May 2014, amendments to the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 (The Constitution Regulations 2012) were made and laid before Parliament. The Department for Education (DfE) also published statutory guidance on the constitution of maintained schools which governing bodies and local authorities must have regard to. The most recent version of this Guidance was issued in September 2016.
- 1.2 The Constitution Regulations 2012 determine the size and membership of governing bodies. Previously the local authority was able to appoint local authority governors to governing bodies, however amendments to the Regulations now permit a local authority only to nominate such a person, with it being a matter for the governing body to appoint. For the local authority governor position, the local authority nominates a governor for “appointment” by the governing body.
- 1.3 This report is to request the nomination of local authority governors for the schools listed in paragraph 6 below.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To consider and approve the nominations of the local authority governors detailed in paragraph 6 below.

3. Recommendation/s

The Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to:

- 3.1 note the information concerning the recommended nominated governors in Appendix 1.

- 3.2 agree to nominate the persons set out in paragraph 6 as local authority governors.

4. Policy Context

- 4.1 Lewisham's Children & Young People's Plan sets out our vision for improving outcomes for all children. The main purpose of a governing body is to account for the achievement of children and young people in their schools.
- 4.2 The appointment of governors supports the broad priorities within Lewisham's Sustainable Community strategy, in particular those of being "ambitious and achieving" and "empowered and responsible". Governors help inspire our young people to achieve their full potential and they also promote volunteering which allows them to be involved in their local area.
- 4.3 Two specific corporate priorities that are relevant pertain to "community leadership and empowerment" and "young people's achievement and involvement".

5. Background

- 5.1.1 Under Section 19 of the Education Act 2002 and School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012, every governing body is required to have at least one representative of the local authority as part of its membership. Governing bodies reconstituted under The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended by The School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016, only allows for one local authority governor. Free schools and Academies are exempt from this requirement.
- 5.2 The Constitution Regulations 2012 and associated Guidance highlight the importance of governors having the appropriate skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.
- 5.3 The suggested nominees have the requisite skills and experience required to be effective in their role as a local authority nominated governor.
- 5.4 A local authority governor vacancy will arise on the governing body of the schools listed in paragraph 6. Appointments to school governing bodies are usually for a four-year term, unless stipulated otherwise in the Instrument of Government. The individuals set out in paragraph 6 would serve the normal 4 years if appointed. The governing body of the respective schools would like to appoint them to the role of local authority governor at the next governing body meeting and thus a nomination is required to enable this to happen.

5.5 Appendix 1 highlights the skills and experience that the individuals possess which will enable them to be an effective member of a governing body.

6. Candidates recommended for Nomination as local authority governor for governing bodies constituted under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 .

Name	School
Jackie Stirling	Brindishe Schools Federation (Brindishe Lee, Brindishe Manor & Brindishe Green)
Brenda Dacres	Childeric
Sermica Dickson	Launcelot
Andrew Holmes OBE	Leathersellers' Federation
Dr Michael Brannan	St Winifred's
Carl Handley	Watergate

7. Financial implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

8. Legal implications

8.1 Section 19 of the Education Act 2002 and the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012(as amended) requires every governing body of a maintained school to have one representative of the local authority as part of its membership.

Equalities Legislation

8.2 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

8.3 In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

8.4 It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed at 7.5 above.

8.5 The weight to be attached to the duty will be dependent on the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it is made. This is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. The Mayor must understand the impact or likely impact of the decision on those with protected characteristics who are potentially affected by the decision. The extent of the duty will necessarily vary from case to case and due regard is such regard as is appropriate in all the circumstances.

8.6 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-codes-practice>

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-technical-guidance>

8.7 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:

- [The essential guide to the public sector equality duty](#)
- [Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making](#)
- [Engagement and the equality duty: A guide for public authorities](#)
- [Objectives and the equality duty. A guide for public authorities](#)

- [Equality Information and the Equality Duty: A Guide for Public Authorities](#)

8.8 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty-guidance#h1>

9 Crime and Disorder Implications

9.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

10. Equalities Implications

10.1 Lewisham Council's policy is to ensure that all sections of the community are to be represented on school governing bodies. It is a priority for the new Mayor to encourage further representation from the black communities and groups with protected characteristics, who are currently under represented as governors. The numbers of governors in these groups is kept under review and we will consider options for encouraging recruitment so that our governors better reflect our diverse borough.

11. Environmental Implications

11.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

12. Conclusion

12.1 The individuals detailed in Appendix 1 view being a governor as a way of utilising their skills and experience to make a difference to the lives of children and young people in Lewisham schools. Section 19 of the Education Act 2002 and School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007 made under it require every governing body to have at least one representative of the local authority as part of its membership. Governing bodies reconstituting under The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 only require one local authority governor. Academies are exempt from this requirement.

12.2 Appointments to school governing bodies are usually for a four-year term, unless stipulated otherwise in the Instrument of Government. The persons listed in paragraph 6 would serve the normal 4 years.

Background Documents

There are no background papers.

If there are any queries arising from this report, please contact Suhaib Saeed,
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020 8314 7670

LA Governor nominations					APPENDIX 1
Name	School	Occupation	Residential Area	Précis of Suitability and Skills to be considered as a school governor	Governor Monitoring Information
Jackie Stirling	Brindishe Schools Federation (Brindishe Lee, Brindishe Manor & Brindishe Green)	HR Business Partner	SE12	Jackie has been a governor at Brindishe for 25 years. She is Vice Chair of governors and Looked After Children lead and Health and Safety lead. She is currently a co-opted governor and has previously been a LA appointed governor. Jackie has a background in HR and works closely with managers in social care and public health which has been useful in her role as governor. In addition to her HR skills she has skills and experience in health and safety, finance, premises and management.	Female White British
Brenda Dacres	Childeric	IT Consultant	SE14	<p>Cllr Brenda Dacres is a former Lewisham primary school parent governor and has a good understanding and experience of SEND. She has experience of serving on a curriculum committee and has attended governor training courses.</p> <p>In 2014 she was elected as a councillor representing New Cross, and has sat on the Children and Young People's committee as vice chair of the committee in her first year of her term.</p> <p>She is passionate and committed to the welfare and education of our young people, and supporting our school heads, teachers, and all school staff.</p>	Female Black Caribbean

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Name	School	Occupation	Residential Area	Précis of Suitability and Skills to be considered as a school governor	Governor Monitoring Information
Sermica Dickson	Launcelot	Commissioning & Contracts Officer	BR1	<p>Sermica is employed as a Local Government Officer with 8 years of experience working within Children's services in Lewisham. She has worked and lived within the Lewisham borough for many years which has provided her with the insight to the complex challenges and needs faced by children, young people and their families.</p> <p>Her current role requires her to work across a number of children services including, education, children social care, and health providing contract management support and monitoring of performance of all commissioned services across her team.</p> <p>Sermica's skills include project management, finance and an understanding of current educational issues facing schools.</p>	Female Black Caribbean
Andrew Holmes OBE	Leathersellers' Federation	Retired civil engineer and company director	SE3	<p>A local resident, Andrew was a co-opted community governor from 2009, until later being nominated by the Authority to become its representative in 2014. A retired civil engineer and company director, Andrew was involved in overseeing several school construction and rehab projects across the Federation under BSF to completion. He is now, inter alia, link governor (premises). He has a keen interest in all things educational and for those living in the Borough of Lewisham in particular. He was previously a</p>	Male White British

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				governor at an all-through school in West Africa, and for the University of Greenwich for 5 years. The governing body wish Andrew to be nominated for re-appointment as a LA governor.	
Dr Michael Brannan	St Winifred's Primary	Civil Servant	SE12	<p>Dr Brannan is a parent governor at the school and the governing body wish to retain his skills and appoint him as a LA governor. Dr Brannan's experience and skills are provided below.</p> <p>Schools – Served as a parent governor for the last two years and also has experience as a voluntary teacher at schools in England and the USA</p> <p>Civil servant –15 years' experience as a civil servant working with at national, local and international levels, including his current role as National Lead for Physical Activity for Public Health England.</p> <p>Abilities and skills: strategic thinking; operational delivery ; commitment to education and health and wellbeing</p>	Male White British
Carl Handley	Watergate	Retired	SE4	<p>Cllr Carl Handley is a Lewisham Council Member with many years' experience as a governor, including holding roles as Chair of Governors and Chair of Committee. He is a long standing voluntary community worker and the governing body wish to re-appoint him as LA governor.</p>	Male White British

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