

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>General Purposes Committee</b>  5 July 2017	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Debbie Jones, Corporate Director (Children's Services)	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Local Authority Governor Application</b>	

<b>Originating Officer</b>	Runa Basit
<b>Wards affected</b>	All

By virtue of section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 and paragraphs and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the five appendices to this report are Exempt as they contains Information relating to any individual and/ or Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual. Specifically, these Appendices consist of application forms and which contain personal data regarding the applicants. The Report is exempt to the extent that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the appendices as the Council would be in breach of the principles in the Data Protection Act if it did so.

### **1. SUMMARY:**

This report sets out for Members details of applicants who have applied to be nominated as the local authority governor at Tower Hamlets maintained schools.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION:**

The General Purposes Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider the applications and agree to nominate the applicants to the positions that are available for local authority governors at maintained schools in Tower Hamlets.

### **3. REASONS FOR DECISION**

- 3.1 The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 set out the process for the appointment of local authority governors to maintained schools. The Regulations allow for the local authority to nominate a person to fill the position of local authority governor. It is for the governing body to appoint that person if the governing body considers the person meets any eligibility criteria that it has set.
- 3.2 The governor nominations in this report are to fill the current LA governor vacancies.

### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

#### **Background - LA appointed governors**

- 4.1 To improve the efficiency for appointing local authority governors to school vacancies, the General Purposes Committee at a meeting held on Wednesday 15 February 2006 made the decision to delegate authority to the Corporate Director (Children, Schools & Families) to appoint and revoke the appointment of local authority governors, except where there was a dispute about an appointment or there was more than one applicant for a post in which case the Committee would decide the appointment.
- 4.2 At a meeting on 29 November 2011, the Council resolved to amend the constitution and the terms of reference of the General Purposes Committee were amended. The committee is now responsible for the appointment and revocation of local authority school governors.
- 4.3 As this is a function of the local authority there is no alternative option.

### **5. LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

- 5.1 Applications to be nominated as the local authority governor to five schools are attached as Appendices to this report in the restricted area of the agenda.

### **6. APPLICATIONS**

#### **New application**

- 6.1 The Headteacher and Chair of Clara Grant Primary School are in support of this application and provided the following statement.

Tom is very suitable for our next LA governor, particularly with his experience in his local primary schools; this is just what we want.

Tom is an experienced school leader and feels that he could contribute to the governors meetings at Clara Grant. Tom understand all aspects of school

leadership including, budget, curriculum, behaviour, T+L, assessment and data and staff development.

Tom has 12 years teaching in inner London schools. Five years of leadership team experience. Three years as an assistant headteacher.

Mr Tom Phillips's application is enclosed at **Appendix 1**.

**6.2** The Chair of Governors and Headteacher of Marnier Primary school are in support of this application and provided the following statement:

When meeting with Obi, he was warm and engaging. Moreover his experience with funding would benefit the Governing Body because this is one of the key areas identified by the GB through a skills audit review.

Obi expressed commitment to the role and was enthusiastic. He stayed on to observe a Governing Body meeting that took place the same day and asked good questions, enabling all of us to develop our thinking. His contributions were valuable and demonstrated careful thought processes which would support us in making informed decisions.

Most importantly, Obi is passionate about education, improving the quality of provision, raising standards and making a difference to his local community. He lives in Tower Hamlets and clearly understood the commitment he would have to make in terms of attending meetings regularly.

On meeting Obi, we hoped he would be part of our governing body and highly recommend his appointment for a post that has been vacant for quite some time now. The Governing Body wanted a governor with skills and expertise that would ensure the school continues to grow and be successful.

Mr Obi Anyanwu's application is enclosed at **Appendix 2**.

**6.3** The Headteacher and Chair of Kobi Nazrul Primary School are in support of this application and provided the following statement:

Avril has been headteacher of Sir William Burrough, an outstanding state-funded academy, for nearly twenty years and has worked in Tower Hamlets schools for over forty years. She is an accredited National Leader of Education, and advises headteachers locally, nationally and internationally.

Avril's work as a member of the Interim Executive Board of Kobi Nazrul Primary School for the last 3 years, has successfully seen the school rapidly rise from a period of requiring special measures to the school being judged as 'good' by Ofsted. The development of the school has continued to go from strength to strength and Avril's support and challenge has contributed significantly – particularly with regards to teaching and learning. As the headteacher, I have particularly valued Avril's wisdom, scrutiny and advice and would be most

grateful to continue this formally through governance with Avril being a local authority governor.

Ms Avril Newman's application is enclosed at **Appendix 3**.

**6.4** The Headteacher of St Paul's and St Luke's CoE Primary School is in support of this application and provided the following statement:

Colin McLennan has offered his services to our school as a governor. He visited the school earlier this year and spent the morning looking around the school and speaking to me about the needs of our pupils, the challenges the school faces in terms of funding and the expectations of the governor role. In his professional role as a fundraiser, I believe he will bring useful skills to the role which will benefit the school. During his visit he expressed his interest in helping the school with fundraising.

Colin has attended two governors' meetings and one full Governing Body meeting as an observer. He showed a great deal of interest in the topics we discussed and asked questions to improve his understanding and knowledge. He also attended a 'welcome' meeting with the chair of governors.

I believe that from my experience of meeting Colin on four separate occasions and his evident interest in the role and our school, I am confident that he will be a valuable addition to our governing body.

Mr Colin McLennan's application is enclosed at **Appendix 4**.

**6.5** The Chair and Headteacher of Bangabandhu Primary are in support of this application. The Chair provided the following statement:

A resident of Bethnal Green, Kevin is active in the local community and keen to increase his involvement in local affairs.

As a director of his own small business, his management and financial knowledge and experience will be particularly helpful to the Governing Body (GB) of the school. Through his work Kevin currently chairs the professional body of talent agencies (the PMA) and, as such, sits on various committees and liaison bodies. He is therefore eminently well-placed to serve on the GB of Bangabandhu Primary School. In my dealings with him so far, I have found him to be fair, un-prejudiced and measured in his approach to discussion. He believes strongly in an open, honest process to decision making. Kevin's work requires him to have strong communication and negotiation skills which, with his leadership experience and the team-working skills that come with being part of a small group of co-workers, will be an asset to the GB.

On a more specific note, his extensive experience in the arts together with his clear commitment to equalities would be of great use to the school in a Link Governor role. I am confident that Kevin will be a strong addition to the GB as LA Governor and am very happy to support his nomination.

Mr Kevin Brady's application is enclosed at **Appendix 5**.

## **7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **8. LEGAL COMMENTS**

8.1 Section 19 of the Education Act 2002 requires each maintained school to have a governing body, which is a body corporate constituted in accordance with the Regulations. Each maintained school is required to have an instrument of government, which specifies the membership of the governing body. Regulations require a governing body to include person appointed as a local authority governor and for a number of associated matters.

8.2 The 2012 Regulations detail the composition of the governing body and the appointment of governors, including local authority governors. The 2012 Regulations provide that there can be only one local authority nominated governor. A local authority governor is a person who is nominated by the local authority and is appointed by the governing body after being satisfied that the person meets any eligibility criteria set by the governing body. It is for the governing body to decide whether the Local Authority nominee has the skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school and meets any eligibility criteria they have set. If the governing body has set eligibility criteria, then these should be notified at the meeting, so the Committee can consider them before making a nomination.

8.3 Schedule 4 to the 2012 Regulations set out the circumstances in which a person is qualified or disqualified from holding or continuing in office as a governor, details of which are as follows –

- A person who is a registered pupil at a school is disqualified from holding office as a governor of the school.
- A person must be aged 18 or over at the date of appointment to be qualified to be a governor.
- A person cannot hold more than one governor post at the same school at the same time.
- A governor who fails to attend meetings for six months without the consent of the governing body becomes disqualified from continuing to hold office.
- A person is disqualified from holding or continuing in office if: (1) his or her estate is sequestered (under bankruptcy) or the person is subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order; (2) he or she is, broadly speaking, disqualified from being a company director; (3) he or she has been removed from office as trustee of a charity; (4) he or she has a criminal conviction of a specified kind within a specified time

period; (5) he or she is subject to a specified prohibition or restriction on employment, such as being barred from 'regulated activity' relating to children under the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups Act 2006; or (6) he or she refuses to apply for a criminal records certificate when requested to do so by the clerk to the governing body.

- A person is disqualified from appointment as a local authority governor if he or she is eligible to be a staff governor.

8.4 Once appointed, a governor will hold office for a fixed period of four years from the date of appointment, except in a limited number of circumstances. This does not prevent a governor from being elected for a further term. A governor may resign, be removed or be disqualified from holding office in the circumstances specified in the relevant Regulations.

8.5 In determining whether to appoint an authority governor, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. The Committee will wish to be satisfied that the process of selection is fair, open and consistent with furtherance of these equality objectives.

8.6 The Council's Constitution gives the General Purposes Committee responsibility for appointment of local authority school governors.

## **9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

9.1 Local Authority Governors are drawn from all sectors of the community. There is a mechanism in place to ensure, as far as possible, that the composition of governing bodies reflects the makeup of the school and wider community.

## **10. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no best value implications arising from the report.

## **11. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

11.1 There are no SAGE implications in the report.

## **12. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 Governors have a crucial strategic role in promoting school improvement and supporting Headteachers and staff in their work. Their statutory responsibilities and duties require a range of skills. There is a risk that the local authority will not be able to meet governing body requirements for

particular skills. The LA engages in a number of activities to ensure a range of applications from the community and local business.

### **13. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 The proposals in the report do not have an impact in relation to the reduction of crime and disorder.
- 

#### **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

##### **Linked Report**

- NONE.

##### **Appendices**

- Appendices 1 – 5 [EXEMPT]. LA Governor Application Forms

##### **Officer contact details for documents:**

- Runa Basit