

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>General Purposes Committee</b>  10 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	
<b>Report of:</b> Debbie Jones, Corporate Director (Children's Services)	<b>Classification:</b> [Unrestricted]
<b>Local Authority Governor Application</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Runa Basit
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

### Executive 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.

### Recommendations:

The General Purposes Committee is recommended to:

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.

### 1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 The governor nominations in this report are to fill the current LA governor vacancies

### 2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 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.

2.2 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.

2.3 As this is a function of the local authority there is no alternative option.

### **3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

3.1 Applications to be nominated as the Local Authority governor to 6 schools are attached as Appendices to this report in the restricted area of the agenda.

### **3.2 APPLICATIONS**

#### **New Appointments**

- a) The Chair and Headteacher of St Paul with St Luke's is in support of the appointment of Ben Roach. Ben Raoch's application is enclosed at **Appendix 1**.
- b) The Chair and Headteacher of Bonner School is in support of the appointment of John Griffiths. John Griffiths' application is enclosed at **Appendix 2**.
- c) The Chair and Headteacher of Lansbury Lawrence School are in support of the appointment of Farhana Begum. Farhana Begum's application is enclosed at **Appendix 3**.

### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 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.

### **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.

5.2 There are no further specific statutory implications arising from the report.

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

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

## **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

7.1 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. Governing Bodies must be constituted under regulations currently the School Governance (Constitution) Regulations 2012. -.

7.2 The 2012 Regulations detail the composition of the governing body and the appointment of governors, including local authority governors and 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.

7.3 Guidance provides that the LA should nominate candidates who can show that they are able to

- Understand the priorities and views of the LA in order to inform the governing body, for example through recent experience of working with the LA or volunteering/ working in education or children’s services.
- Keep updated with local and national educational developments.
- commit the required time by attending meetings and regular governor training and briefing sessions;
- Respect confidentiality
- Be committed to equal opportunities
- Demonstrate good teamwork and communication skills
- Support and appropriately challenge the headteacher and senior leaders in order to improve outcomes for pupils.

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

7.4 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.

- 7.5 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.
- 7.6 The General Purposes Committee are responsible for nominating the local authority school governors who will then be appointed by the Governing Body the report confirms that the LA officers have discussed the proposed nominees with the relevant headteachers and Chair of Governors who support the appointments.

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

### **Linked Report**

- NONE

### **Appendices**

- Appendices 1 – 3 [EXEMPT] LA Governor Application Forms

### **Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)**

#### **List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report**

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- NONE

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

Runa Basit