

Non-Executive Report of the: <b>General Purposes Committee</b> 14 September 2016	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Debbie Jones, Corporate Director (Children's Services)	<b>Classification:</b> [Unrestricted]
<b>Local Authority Governor Applications</b>	

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

### 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.

### Recommendation:

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. LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

- 1.1 The General Purposes Committee is responsible for the nomination and revocation of local authority school governors.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.

## **2. APPLICATIONS**

### **Application for re-appointment**

- 2.1 Leonie Fleming has completed one term of office (four years) and has applied to continue serving as the LA Governor at Shapla School. The Governing Body, and the Headteacher recommend that Leonie Fleming is nominated for appointment as the LA Governor as during her term of office Ms Fleming has contributed greatly to a number of important issues within the school. Ms Fleming's application is provided at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 Michael Coleman is the Chair of Governors at Hague Primary School and has served one four year term of office as the Local Authority Governor. Mr Coleman wishes to re-apply for a further term and this is fully supported by the Governing Body and the Headteacher. Mr Coleman has chaired the Finance and Resources Committee in the past and continues to sit on this Committee; he is also a Link Governor for Year One. Mr Coleman has attended 21 out of the 25 Committee and Governing Body meetings since 2014 and his attendance continues to be consistent. The Headteacher commented that Mr Coleman is an active Governor and is committed to ensuring that children at Hague are able to achieve well and make great progress. The Governing Body wishes to retain Mr Coleman's particular expertise in school premises management and finance, especially as the school has a number new governor and is due for an OFSTED inspection. Mr Coleman's application is provided at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.3 Oliver Rice has completed one four year term of office and has applied to continue serving as the LA Governor at Children's House Nursery. The Governing Body recommends that Mr Rice is nominated for re-appointment as the LA Governor as he has contributed greatly to the school. Mr Rice's application is provided at **Appendix 3**.
- 2.4 Sirajrul Islam has completed his most recent four year term of office and has applied to continue serving as the LA Governor at John Scurr. Mr Islam has served as a governor for over 15 years. Mr Islam is a local resident and has

worked in various roles in Public Service. Mr Islam has significantly contributed to the governing body and has held the senior leadership to account. Mr Islam is a Councillor and is currently the Deputy Mayor for Tower Hamlets. The Governing Body recommends that Mr Islam is nominated for re-appointment as the LA Governor. Mr Islam's application is provided at **Appendix 4**.

### **New applications**

- 2.5 Mr Mark Butcher is applying for the LA Governor vacancy at Cubitt Town Junior school. Mr Butcher has visited the school and met with the Chair and Headteacher. Both the Chair and Headteacher welcomed the application and commented that Mr Butcher's knowledge of Maths and analysis of school performance data, as well as knowing the national expectations, would be helpful in order to hold the senior leaders to account with his knowledge. Mr Butcher's application is provided at **Appendix 5**.
- 2.6 Rebecca Harvey is applying for the LA Governor vacancy at Olga Primary School. Ms Harvey is passionate about education and wants to be involved in supporting the local community. Ms Harvey has experience in project management, quality management and carried out education based research. Ms Harvey also has previous experience of OFSTED inspection and recruiting a Headteacher whilst she was a Chair of Governors at a primary school in Islington. The Chair of Governors at Cubitt Town Juniors has commented that Ms Harvey is a parent at the school and knows the school well. The Chair would like her to join the Governing Body as she is keen to contribute to the work of Governors and has previous experience as a governor. Ms Harvey lives within close proximity to the school and would be able to attend meetings at short notice. Her application is at **Appendix 6**.
- 2.7 Dr Larissa Moniz is applying for the LA Governor vacancy at Redlands School. Dr Moniz has spent much of her career as a research scientist. Dr Moniz has experience of data analysis and research skills. Dr Moniz has strength for communicating complex information in a clear and engaging manner. Dr Moniz has also previously mentored numerous undergraduates and graduate students. The Headteacher and Chair of governors are in support of the application and wish for Dr Moniz to join the governing body. Her application is at **Appendix 7**.

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

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

### **4. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 4.1 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.

- 4.2 The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 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.
- 4.3 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, and cannot be reappointed for 12 months from the date they are disqualified.
  - 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 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.
- 4.4 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.

- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 The Council's Constitution gives the General Purposes Committee responsibility for appointment of local authority school governors.

## **5. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 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.

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

- 6.1 There are no best value implications arising from the report.

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

- 7.1 There are no SAGE implications in the report.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 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.

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

- 9.1 The proposals in the report do not have an impact in relation to the reduction of crime and disorder.
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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- NONE.

### **Appendices**

- Appendices 1 –7 [EXEMPT]. LA Governor Application Forms
- NONE.

### **Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended) List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report**

- NONE

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

- Runa Basit