


<p style="text-align: center;">Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>General Purposes Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">23 November 2016</p>	
<p><b>Report of:</b> Debbie Jones, Corporate Director (Children's Services)</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> [Unrestricted]</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Local Authority Governor Applications</b></p>	

<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 local authority governors 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 and located in the exempt part of the agenda due to the sensitive nature of the information they contain.

## 2. APPLICATIONS

### New applications

- 2.1 Mr Tat-Seng Chiam is a Tower Hamlets resident and has applied for the local authority (LA) vacancy at Harry Gosling Primary school. The Chair and Headteacher are in support of this application and have commented that Mr Chiam has an impressive academic track record, and an employment history which indicate that he will bring useful knowledge and experience to the Governing Body. Mr Chiam had demonstrated his commitment to the role and was keen to attend a pre-appointment meeting with the Chair and Head, during which the Chair and Head were able to explore his motivation for becoming a school governor. He demonstrated that he was clearly aligned to the values and vision of the school, and will bring relevant skills to the Governing Body. Mr Chiam's application is enclosed as **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 Mr Daniel Murshad has applied for the LA governor vacancy at Stepney Green. Mr Murshad is a Tower Hamlets resident and completed his primary and secondary education in Tower Hamlets. Mr Murshad is a qualified solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales, and has spent most of his career as in-house counsel to financial services firms. Mr Murshad also has experience of budget planning. The school supports Mr Murshad's application to become the LA governor. Mr Murshad's application is enclosed as **Appendix 2**.
- 2.3 Louis Coiffait is a Tower Hamlets resident and is applying for vacancy at Olga Primary School. The Headteacher said that she would be happy to have Louis Coiffait on the Governing Body at Olga. The Governing Body will appreciate Mr Coiffait's experience of education policy and finance would be beneficial to the school. The Governing Body have recently had a number of new governors with little experience of governance, so Mr Coiffait's experience as a governor at other schools would also be beneficial. Mr Coiffait's application is enclosed as **Appendix 3**.

- 2.4 Mr Jack Gillet has applied for the governor vacancy at Lawdale Primary School. Mr Gillett is a resident of Tower Hamlets and would like to give something back to the community. The school will benefit from Mr Gillet's financial and business strategic skills. The Chair and Headteacher are in support of this application. Mr Gillet's application is enclosed **Appendix 4**.
- 2.4 Ms Isobel Cattermole is applying for the LA vacancy at Beatrice Tate Special School. Ms Cattermole has worked for Tower Hamlets Council for 16 years, retiring from full-time employment as Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services in April 2013. The Headteacher and Chair welcomed Ms Cattermole's application and her vast local experience and expertise, coupled with her understanding of national expectations, would be helpful to hold senior leaders to account and to extend the skills base of the school's existing governing body. Ms Cattermole's application is enclosed as application is enclosed **Appendix 5**.

### **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 ('**the 2002 Act**') requires each maintained school to have a governing body, which is a body corporate constituted in accordance with The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 ('**the Regulations**'). Each maintained school is required to have an instrument of government, which specifies the membership of the governing body. The Regulations require a governing body to include persons appointed as local authority governors and for a number of associated matters.
- 4.2 The 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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 The Terms of Reference for the General Purposes Committee gives to the Committee responsibility for appointment and revocation of local authority school governors.

4.6 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.

## **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 Reports**

- NONE.

#### **Appendices**

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

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

- Runa Basit