

Committee General Purposes Committee	Date 15th February, 2006	Classification Unrestricted	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Report of: Corporate Director (Children's Services) Originating Officer(s): Fiona Paterson / Tim Hogan		Title: Delegation of responsibility for the Appointment and Revocation of Local Authority Governors to the Corporate Director (Children's Services) Ward(s) affected: ALL		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report proposes that the Corporate Director (Children's Services) be delegated the authority to appoint and revoke the appointment of Local Authority Governors.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The General Purposes Committee are recommended to:
- 2.1 Approve delegated authority to the Corporate Director (Children's Services) to appoint and revoke the appointment of Local Authority Governors, except where there is a dispute about an appointment or where there is more than one applicant for a post.
- 2.2 Ratify the appointment of the Local Authority Governors listed in the schedule attached at Annex A.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (SECTION 97) LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background paper"

Name and telephone number of holder
and address where open to inspection

Tim Hogan
020 7364 4850

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

15TH FEBRUARY, 2006

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES) TO APPOINT AND REVOKE THE APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As Members may recall, a report was considered by the Committee on 30th November, 2005 which agreed that:

Council be recommended that the Committee's Terms of Reference be amended to include responsibility for the appointment and the revocation of Local Authority Governors.

- 3.2 Subsequently Council at its meeting held on 14th December, 2005 agreed to amend the Committee's Terms of Reference to include responsibility for the appointment and the revocation of Local Authority (LA) Governors.

4. DELEGATION TO OFFICERS

The former Licensing and General Services Committee was allocated the responsibility for the appointment of LA Governors. It was recognised by the former Licensing and General Services Committee that there was need for speed with regard to the appointment of LA Governors and accordingly that Committee delegated the responsibility to the Corporate Director (Education). As Council in May 2005 resolved to dissolve the Licensing and General Services Committee, officers are now seeking for the delegation powers to be re-instated to the Corporate Director (Children's Services). In addition to the above, this report also seeks to have the responsibility to revoke the appointment of an LA Governor to be delegated to the Corporate Director (Children's Services).

5. APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS

- 5.1 Members are asked to approve the appointment of Local Authority governors listed at Appendix 'A' to this report for reasons as set out above.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- 6.1 Governing Bodies perform a vital role, in conjunction with headteachers, in our schools and are key partners in helping raise standards and encouraging students to achieve. They have legal responsibilities in relation to schools and Governing Body meetings must be quorate to enable decisions to be made. Vacancies need

to be filled promptly and delegation to the Corporate Director (Children's Services) will ensure that this will happen. Governing Bodies make identifying new members a priority, often, through search committees sub-groups of the Governing Body. This is to ensure membership continuity so business can be conducted in an informed manner and new governors brought into existing Governing Bodies in a structured way.

- 6.2 It is therefore important that the Borough's schools can be confident that the Local Authority is able to appoint governors in the LA category, for which it is responsible, in a timely and efficient manner. The process for appointments needs to be kept as smooth and streamlined as possible so that we can ensure that the full complement of LA governors is in place across our schools.

7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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

8. CONCURRENT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

- 8.1 Local Authorities have the power and revoke the appointments of any individuals to external bodies. (The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations 2000 (S12853).
- 8.2 This report seeks to delegate to the Corporate Director (Children's Services) the responsibility for the appointment and/or the revocation of appointments of LA A Committee may make provision for the discharge of its functions to be carried out by any officers of the Authority under Section 15, Local Government Act 2000.

9. ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no immediate anti-poverty implications arising from this report.

10. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 LEA governors are drawn from all sectors of the community and it is vital that a robust mechanism is in place to ensure their continued appointment.

11. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 11.1 There are no SAGE implications arising from this report.

12. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 12.1 A failure to implement a robust mechanism for the appointment of LA Governors could lead school governing bodies being deprived of appropriate representation and could also lead to governing bodies being inoperative. A failure to appoint local governors in a timely manner could also bring the Authority into disrepute.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 The General Purposes Committee are recommended to:

13.1 Approve delegated authority to the Corporate Director (Children's Services) to appoint and revoke the appointment of Local Authority Governors, except where there is a dispute about an appointment or where there is more than one applicant for a post.

13.2 Ratify the appointment of the Local Authority Governors listed in the schedule attached at Annex A.