

Decision Maker: **Children and Young People Portfolio Holder**

Date: **For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Children and Young People PDS Committee on 29 November 2011**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

**TITLE: MEMBERSHIP OF SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

Contact Officer: Janet Heathcote, Governor Support Officer  
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Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: Shortlands, Orpington, Penge and Cator, Cray Valley East, Mottingham and Chislehurst, Bickley, Kelsey and Eden Park, Hayes and Coney Hall.

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1. Reason for report

1.1 LA Governor appointments to schools and academies:

Highfield Junior School	Hillside Primary School
Royston Primary School	St Paul's Cray CE Primary School
St Vincent's RC Primary School	

1.2 LA Governor confirmation of appointment to academies:

Bullers Wood School	Langley Park School for Girls
Pickhurst Junior School	

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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 **Members of the CYP PDS Committee are requested to note this report.**

2.2 **It is recommended that the Executive Member for Children and Young People approve the appointments subject to CRB checks.**

## Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy: Children and Young People Portfolio Plan 2011-12
  2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A
  2. Ongoing costs: N/A
  3. Budget head/performance centre:
  4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
  5. Source of funding:
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## Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional) – N/A
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours – N/A
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## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory requirement: School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007
  2. Call in: Call-in is applicable
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## Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected) - N/A
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## Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

### **3. COMMENTARY**

- 3.1 Details of the LA Governor vacancies that have arisen are set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 The Academies Act 2010 allows academy trusts to decide whether they have one Local Authority governor on the academy governing body. The Model Articles of Association, issued by the DfE, state that "the LA may appoint the LA Governor". Therefore, where the Local Authority is approached it is a matter for the Authority to decide who it wishes to appoint to the governing body of the academy. In summary, the Local Authority cannot insist on appointing to an Academy however, where the academy trust decides that it wishes to have an LA Governor it is for the Authority to decide who it wishes to appoint.
- 3.3 Currently some academies are seeking to confirm, in post, existing LA governors who have previously served when the school operated under the governorship provisions of earlier Education Acts
- 3.4 The current procedure for the appointment of Local Authority Governors decided upon in 2009 (DCYP09139 Proposals for the Development of Recruitment and Support of Local Authority Governors, Appendix 7) allows for the Portfolio Holder to confirm/approve appointments. It is proposed that this procedure should be amended in the light of the Academies Act 2010 so that the preferred appointment criteria for a new LA governor will be that they should be either a Council Member or Senior Officer (if such appointment will not conflict with their employment within the Council).
- 3.5 A proposal for the amendment of the appointment procedure will be presented to CYP PDS at a future meeting following the enactment of the new Education Act.
- 3.6 The names of the applicants for all the LA Governor vacancies are set out in the report with biographical details. Further detailed information on applicants is held by Governor Services to support the decision made by the Portfolio Holder.
- 3.7 Details of the continuation of appointment (confirmation) of LA Governors as a result of Academy conversion are included within **Appendix 2**.

### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 All Council Members and Governing Bodies have been consulted.

### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Schools contribute to the achievement of improved outcomes for children and young people as outlined in the Borough's Sustainable Community Strategy: 'Building a Better Bromley 2010 Vision' and in the CYP Portfolio Plan for 2011/12.

### **6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Details of individuals who are barred from working with children are contained on the Independent Safeguarding Authority's (ISA) Children's Barred List to which the Local Authority has access. This list replaces the previous list 99 and the Protection of Children Act (POCA) list.
- 6.2 Following the introduction of the Vetting and Barring Scheme in October 2009 Governors are included in the list of roles regarded as undertaking "regulated activity".

6.3 Although the Vetting and Barring Scheme is now on hold whilst being reviewed by the current Government, where Governors continue to meet the criteria for an enhanced CRB check disclosure this should be undertaken.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 now adds a new category of people who are disqualified from being a School Governor by Schedule 6 of the School Government Regulations 2002/03. The Act makes it a criminal offence for a person who is disqualified from working with children to apply for, offer to do, accept or do, any work in a “regulated position” and a member of the Governing Body of a school is included in the list of “regulated positions” set out in the Act.

7.2 The School Governance (Transition from an Interim Executive Board) (England) Regulations 2004.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Financial Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	

## DETAILS OF LA GOVERNOR VACANCIES

**Highfield Junior School** – one LA Governor vacancy has been created by the resignation of Mrs Kaushala Surenthiran.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Details</u>
Ms Fiona Cape (Beckenham)	Nominated by the Governing Body. Ms Cape is an experienced school governor having served as a parent governor whilst her children attended the school. She served on the Building and Site Committee and was the appointed Child Protection Governor. Ms Cape is a retired police officer and is a qualified Tier 2 investigator and family liaison officer.

**Hillside Primary School** - one LA Governor vacancy has been created by the resignation of Mr James McCabe.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Details</u>
Mr Paul Iredale (Chislehurst)	Mr Iredale is a very experienced school governor of both primary and secondary schools. He currently serves as an LA Governor of the Governing Body of Manor Oak Primary School and the Shadow Governing Body of St Mary Cray Primary School. Mr Iredale has served as a Bromley governor for over 9 years and regularly attends Bromley governor training and forum meetings.

**Royston Primary School** – one LA Governor vacancy has been created by the resignation of Mrs Joanne Van der Meer.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Details</u>
Mrs Jennifer Avery (Hayes)	Nominated by the Governing Body. Mrs Avery has over 30 years teaching and management experience in both mainstream and specialist provision. She is now retired but has had considerable experience of managing teams, budgets, initiating training programmes, advising colleagues and liaising with parents.

**St Paul's Cray CE Primary School** – one LA Governor vacancy has been created by the resignation of Mrs Vivien Tabone.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Details</u>
Mr Stephen Mead (Orpington)	Nominated by the Governing Body. Mr Mead is the Director of a community interest company. He has worked in both the public and private sector over the last 30 years. Mr Mead has recently taken early retirement and is in a position to contribute time, skills and expertise to the benefit of his local community. He has experience in strategic and operational management and has worked as a project manager in multi million pound building design and construction projects.

**St Vincent's RC Primary School** – one LA Governor vacancy was created when Mr Malcolm Casey sadly died earlier this year.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Details</u>
Mrs Janine Caldwell (Bromley)	Nominated by the Governing Body. Mrs Caldwell is an accountant working for KPMG for 10 years. She was educated in Bromley and would like to contribute towards education in a local primary school as a school governor. Mrs Caldwell has built up an exceptional level of business knowledge and skills. She is a good project manager and listener and able to provide solutions to problems.

## DETAILS OF GOVERNOR MEMBERSHIP AS A RESULT OF ACADEMY CONVERSION

The Academies Act 2010 has enabled all schools to consider the conversion process to Academy Status. With the agreement of their Governing Bodies and full consultation, the following schools have followed the legal process and have recently converted to Academy Status.

The Academy Trusts for each school included below have agreed the composition of their Governing Bodies and, whilst there is not a legal requirement to do so, they wish to retain an LA appointed governor and have requested that the following nominees be appointed or reconfirmed as LA Governor to their Academy Governing Bodies.

Upon conversion to Academy Status existing governors transferred as governors of the Academy which included one LA Governor in their Governing Body.

All nominations have been provided by each Academy and were all originally appointed as LA Governors prior to conversion, therefore a confirmation of appointments is required.

### **Bullers Wood School**

#### Name

Mr Arthur Johnston JP  
(Chislehurst)

#### Details

Mr Johnston is a long serving governor of the Governing Body of Bullers Wood School. He was first appointed as LA Governor on 19 September 2003.

### **Langley Park School for Girls**

#### Name

Cllr Diana MacMull  
(Bromley Town)

#### Details

Cllr MacMull was first appointed as LA Governor to the Governing Body of Langley Park School for Girls on 19 October 2009.

### **Pickhurst Junior School**

#### Name

Mrs Stella Brackpool  
(Bromley)

#### Details

Mrs Brackpool was first appointed as LA Governor to the Governing Body of Pickhurst Junior School on 19 September 2003. She is a long serving governor having served on other Bromley school governing bodies for over 20 years.