

**SCHOOL GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP**  
**12<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**Recommendations of the Working Group.**

The School Governance Working Group met on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013 and agreed the objectives of the Working Group as:

*“To ensure that the Local Authority has a pool of well trained governors able to play an effective role in ensuring that schools are well governed, that they are aware of their role and responsibilities and work closely with the Local Authority and have the support they need to undertake their role.*”

The Working Group agreed the role of the Local Authority Governor as:

*“Local Authority Governors are appointed by and represent the Local Authority on a school or academy Governing Body. They should consider the views and advice of the Local Authority but are not delegates. Like other categories of governor, they cannot be directed to present a particular point of view. They should act in the best interests of the pupils and the community which the school or academy serves.”*

The Working Group makes the following proposals for consideration by the Education PDS Committee and recommendation to the Portfolio Holder;

**1. Local Authority Governor Recruitment be supported through advertising and/or speakers at:**

- **A LA Governor recruitment event;**
- **An Open Day at The Glades and The Walnuts Shopping Centres;**
- **Bromley Adult Education College;**
- **The Bromley Residents’ Associations annual meeting;**
- **Community Links Bromley;**
- **The Education Department wraparound sheet of the Bromley News Shopper;**
- **Safer Neighbourhood Panels through the Bromley Community Engagement Forum;**
- **Snow and Parks Friends through Environmental Services;**
- **Targeting local businesses such as solicitor firms to recruit LA Governors with specific skill sets; and,**
- **Utilising local supermarkets through advertising on the back of till receipts and on community notice boards.**

**2. A formal selection process be developed for Local Authority Governors comprising:**

- **A pre-interview stage where a prospective Governor would be contacted by an existing LA Governor for an informal conversation about the role;**

- A selection board of 2-3 people which would comprise the Portfolio Holder for Education or Chairman of Education PDS Committee, Education PDS Committee members, existing LA Governors and a National Leader of Governance. The selection panel might also include a representative of schools seeking an LA Governor; and,
- A final stage where successful applicants would be matched with a school, but their appointment would be subject to their attending an introductory training session, to be run on a half-termly basis.

**3. Training and communication processes between Local Authority Governors and the Local Authority be developed through:**

- An induction pack which deals with the specific role of the LA governor;
- The responsibilities of LA Governors to the Local Authority and those of the Local Authority to LA Governors included as part of the Education Covenant;
- An annual LA Governor questionnaire which includes the opportunity for Governors to highlight key successes for their school or academy and issues identified throughout the year;
- Annual objectives/themes agreed by the Education PDS Committee provided to schools and academies for their comments and feedback;
- Circulation of the minutes of the termly Chairman's Networking Meeting to Governors;
- More active involvement of Governors with the Termly Governors' Briefing, for example through a letters page or FAQs;
- Introduction of a hot line number to enable LA Governors to access Local Authority guidance on areas of particular concern that they have already raised with their Head Teachers and Governing Bodies and require additional specialist guidance on;
- The Education Portfolio Holder and Chairman of the Education PDS Committee contributing details of work being undertaken across the Education Portfolio and by the Education PDS Committee to the termly Governors' Briefing;
- Specialist advice from the Local Authority where appropriate; and,
- Expansion of the training offer at Bromley College of Adult Education through increased access to national courses and training programmes.

**4. Best practice be developed through:**

- Each school ensuring they have a constitution for their governing body and that this should be published on their website;
- Making LA Governors aware of the information they can reasonably expect to have access to in fulfilling their role and responsibilities.

**5. Academy Schools be encouraged to have Local Authority Governors through:**

- Being approached by the Local Authority to promote the benefits of having at least one LA Governor.