

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES - CHILDREN'S SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE – CO-OPTED MEMBERSHIP

Report of the City Solicitor

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Review Committee currently has 16 co-opted positions including 5 Parent Governor Representatives (PGRs) and has recently carried out a review of this representation to:

- a. ensure that representatives continue to be in the most appropriate category for the remit of the Committee, and
- b. account for some difficulties in recruiting to all of the positions.

1.2 The representation pre-dates the Children's Services remit and consequently, the emphasis has been on representatives from schools' backgrounds and not from those with backgrounds dealing with children's social care or other areas of children's and young people's experience.

2.0 Current position

2.1 An invitation for PGR nominations to the current 5 posts on the Committee resulted in the following interest:

- Community Secondary schools – **one nomination (Mr D Snowdon)**
- Community/Controlled Primary schools – **no nominations**
- Nursery schools – **no nominations**
- Special schools – **2 nominations (Mrs M Carr & Mr A Pearce)**
- The Voluntary Aided sector – **no nominations**

3.0 Proposals

3.1 At its meeting on 13th March 2008 the Committee reviewed the position and agreed to recommend the undermentioned 5 new proposals for updating its membership structure:

- **Proposal 1:** In order to involve all 3 nominees in the Committee, it is proposed that the Council removes the distinction between the categories of schools. This would allow the committee to accept all three valid nominations.

- **Proposal 2:** The Council is required to have a minimum of two and a maximum of five PGRs. There has been difficulty recruiting to all of the positions and it is proposed to reduce the number of PGR's from 5 to 3.

The position of representative of non-teaching employees in schools has been vacant for some time. Unison recently nominated **Audrey Johnson** to the position. The nominee works as a non-teaching employee in social care. It is relevant to retain representation of non-teaching employees in schools and the nominee has been approached with a view to widening the scope of the current category to include schools and social care.

- **Proposal 3:** To amend the current representation and accept into membership '1 representative of non-teaching employees in schools and social care'.
- **Proposal 4:** It is proposed that the Committee re-creates the diversity and equality position on the Committee and re-categorises this as 'a representative of diversity and inclusion' and that efforts are taken to recruit to this position.
- **Proposal 5:** In addition to this review, it is proposed that the Review Committee carries out a further review to amend any remaining imbalance in its membership by recruiting, for example, further representation from the voluntary or health sector. This may also include co-option for fixed periods in relation to major policy review work.

3.2 The proposals outlined above would result in an overall reduction from 16 to 15 representatives with 2 remaining vacancies which can be addressed in the next stage of the review described in proposal 5.

4.0 Recommendation:

4.1 That Council endorses and adopts the 5 proposals set out above including the nominations for membership of the Children's Services Review Committee.