

EDUCATION (APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS) PANEL

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre (Committee Room No. 1) on
Monday, 4th December, 2006 at 5.00 p.m.

ITEM		PAGE
1.	Declarations of Interest (if any)	
2.	Apologies for Absence	
3.	Minutes of the last meeting of the Panel held on 6th November, 2006 (Copy herewith).	1
4.	Recruitment of School Governors Update Report of the Director of Children's Services (copy herewith).	3

R.C. RAYNER,
City Solicitor.

Civic Centre,
SUNDERLAND.

24th November, 2006.

**At a meeting of the EDUCATION (APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS)
PANEL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on Monday, 6TH NOVEMBER, 2006 at
5.15 p.m.**

Present:-

Councillor J Heron in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Porthouse, Mrs. M. Smith, Whalen, T.H. Wright, and Mrs D Elliott.

Declarations of Interest

Mrs D. Elliott declared a personal interest in Item 6 as a LEA Governor of Portland School.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Bates, Oliver and Richardson.

Minutes

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Panel held on 9th October, 2006 (copy circulated) be confirmed as a correct record.

Consideration of Candidates for Inclusion on the Approved List

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) on applications received for inclusion on the list of approved candidates for appointment as LEA Governors.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the Director of Children's Services be authorised to include the applicants detailed in the report on the list of approved candidates for appointment as LEA Governors.

Rules of Procedure – Implementation of Rule 2 (IV)(E)

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) concerning vacancies to be filled by the Panel in accordance with Rule 2(IV)(E) of its Rules of Procedure.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Consideration having been given to the vacancies, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the nomination to governing bodies detailed in the report be approved.

Governing Body Nominations

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) on nominations received for appointment to various governing bodies.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Panel having given consideration to the nominations:-

4. RESOLVED that the nominations detailed in the report be approved.

Any Other Business

The Chairman advised that a report on Governor Recruitment would be on the Agenda for the next meeting. A discussion ensued and it was decided that a presentation would also be given to the Panel on Academy Governing Bodies.

5. RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Panel commence at the earlier time of 5 p.m. to provide more time to discuss this extra business.

(Signed) J. HERON,
Chairman.

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO THE EDUCATION
(APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS) PANEL**

MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2006

RECRUITMENT OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS UPDATE

1 Purpose of Report

This report is intended to give members an updated position on governor recruitment and levels of vacancies. It also seeks members' views on future strategy.

2 Description of Decision

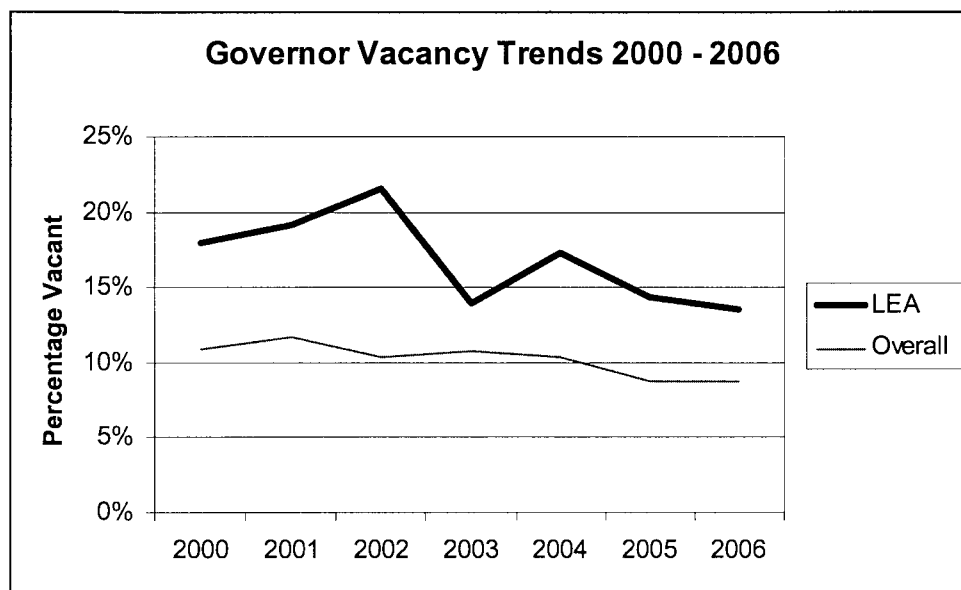
Members of the Appointment of Governors Panel are asked to note the content of the report and give their views on the future recruitment of school governors.

3 Background

The Appointment of Governors Panel was constituted by the Council and met for the first time in December 1999. This marked a change in the way that LEA governors were appointed in Sunderland. The Appointments Panel was given full delegated powers to appoint and remove LEA governors and did not need to have its decisions ratified by another other Council Committee or Cabinet. The Appointments Panel holds a list of approved candidates for appointment as LEA governors and all appointments since then have only been made from this approved list. Sunderland City Council was among the first to publish selection criteria for its LEA governors.

At the inception of the Appointments Panel in 1999, vacancies for LEA governors stood at 18%. This was a matter of concern and was generally higher than the national average for this category of governor.

Alongside the new Appointment of Governors Panel the Council began to advertise for prospective LEA governors and stepped up its efforts to recruit governors.



Surveys of school governor vacancies take place regularly and since 1999 have shown a significant reduction in the level of governor vacancies overall (taking

account of all categories). This is the result of sustained recruitment efforts, effective induction arrangements, strong support for governors and efficient re-constitution of Governing Bodies under the new framework. The trend across all school sectors has been downwards with fewer vacancies for Parent, Staff, Community and Foundation Governors.

The percentage of LEA appointed governor vacancies has also dropped to the lowest for many years while the actual number of LEA Governor vacancies has more than halved since the year 2000.

4 Current Position

Recent benchmarking against other Local Authorities has been carried out. Comparisons were drawn between Sunderland against other Authorities in the north-east region, against other metropolitan Authorities and against all Authorities nationally. Some of the key points to note from this benchmarking are: -

- Compared to the national average, Sunderland's overall governor vacancy rates is lower than the national average. Our vacancies are just 8.8% compared to a national average of 12% across all Authorities.
- Sunderland's parent governor vacancies are low. At just 8.7%, this represents the best in the north-east
- Vacancies for staff governors in Sunderland are just 3.6% compared to a national average of 7%
- Sunderland's vacancy rates for Community Governors (12.5%) are slightly higher than the average for north-east Authorities but considerably lower than the national average of 17% for this category
- Our vacancy rates for LEA appointed governors are now 13.6% compared to a national average of 15% for this category. However, the average for north-eastern Authorities is 11% vacancies for LEA governors.

It is therefore clear that our main recruitment priority is in minimising vacancies for LEA appointed governors.

Another important measure is the proportion of school governors who are from BME communities. Sunderland now has rigorous systems in place to collect data relating to ethnicity, gender and disability. It is now accurately known that our proportion of BME governors is 0.7%. This is lower than the national average and is among the lowest in the north-east region. Therefore the recruitment of BME governors must also be regarded as a priority.

5 Proposal

Members of the Education (Appointment of Governors) Panel are asked to note the content of the report.

Members are also asked to consider any additional strategies in relation to the recruitment of LEA governors, and also to efforts to increase the proportion of ethnic minority governors.

6 Background papers

No background papers were used.