

REPORT TO CABINET

Title: APPOINTMENT OF LEA REPRESENTATIVES TO GOVERNING BODIES OF SCHOOLS IN THE ROYAL BOROUGH

Date: 18 December 2008

Member Reporting: Councillor Mrs Quick

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Wards Affected:

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consider the vacancies that have arisen or will shortly arise for Local Education Authority (LEA) representatives on school governing bodies within the Royal Borough, and of nominations that have been received, so that appointments may be made.

2. RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) **Either Julian Tisi or Tom Bursnall be appointed to Windsor Boys' School.**
- ii) **Susan Leighs be appointed to Eton Wick C of E First School.**
- iii) **Asghar Majeed be appointed to Oldfield Primary School.**
- iv) **Grant Thompson be appointed to Holy Trinity Primary School Sunningdale.**
- v) **Nigel Smith be re-appointed to Larchfield Primary School**
- vi) **Dorothy Kemp be re-appointed to Woodlands Park Primary School.**

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 3.1 Applications were received for the following vacancies:

<i>School</i>	<i>Ward</i>	<i>Name</i>
Windsor Boys' School	Castle Without	Julian Tisi
Windsor Boys' School	Castle Without	Tom Bursnall
Eton Wick C of E First School	Eton Wick	Susan Leighs
Oldfield Primary School	Oldfield	Asghar Majeed
Oldfield Primary School	Oldfield	Lorraine Woolrich*

Holy Trinity Primary School Sunningdale	Sunningdale	Grant Thompson
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*Lorraine Woolrich has withdrawn her application

The final approval of which applicant becomes an LEA governor lies with Cabinet.

3.2 Wards Affected

Castle Without, Eton Wick, Oldfield and Sunningdale

3.3 Relevant Matters Upon Which Decision is Based and Reasons Supporting Recommendation

Details of vacancies that have arisen within the borough are given below. Details of candidates seeking appointment are given in the attached Appendix A. All appointments should be made in accordance with the authority's Code of Practice on the Appointment of LEA Governors.

3.4 Existing vacancies

On 4th November there were 14 vacancies for LEA governors at schools within the Royal Borough at the following schools:

<u>School</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>No. Vacancies</u>
All Saints C.E. Junior	Boyne Hill	1
Alwyn Infant	Pinkneys Green	1
Braywood C of E First	Bray	1
Clewer Green C of E	Clewer East	1
Courthouse Junior	Pinkneys Green	1
Datchet St Mary's	Datchet	1
Dedworth Green First	Clewer North	1
Eton Wick C of E First	Eton Wick	1
Hilltop First	Clewer South	1
Holy Trinity Primary Sunningdale	Sunningdale	1
Oakfield First	Clewer East	1
Oldfield Primary	Oldfield	1
St Luke's C of E Primary	Bray	1
Windsor Boys'	Castle Without	1

This represents a vacancy rate of 1.5% of the total number of governors or 9.7% of LEA governors. Ward Councillors for these vacancies have been notified via an e-mail.

Members might like to note that Dr Saleem has now been appointed as a community governor to Furze Platt Senior School.

3.5 Governors Seeking Re-Appointment

The following education LEA governors are about to reach the end of their current term of office and have submitted nomination forms seeking re-appointment for a further term of office.

Governor	School	Seeking Re-Appointment
Nigel Smith	Larchfield Primary School	Yes
Dorothy Kemp	Woodlands Park Primary School	Yes

3.6 Future vacancies

LEA governors at the following schools will reach the end of their current term of office before the end of January 2008. Letters are sent to each governor inviting them to apply for re-appointment. Applications are invited from Members and other interested individuals for consideration for these positions at the time of the next report.

Current representatives

<u>School</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>Term Office Ends</u>	<u>Resubmitting</u>
Larchfield Primary and School	Oldfield	26/01/2009	Yes
Homer First School	Clewer North	13/11/2008	No
Holyport Manor School	Bray	31/12/2008	No
Woodlands Park Primary School	Hurley & the Walthams	31/01/2008	Yes

4. **OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

Under the Authority's Code of Practice, nominations will only be considered if submitted on the appropriate application form prior to a published closing date. Appointments to fill any of the vacancies in this report can only be made from the nominations listed in the schedule at Appendix A.

4.1 **Options**

	Option	Comments	Financial Implications
1.	To select an appropriate applicant from those included to be recruited	If it is deemed that the skills and knowledge of the applicant meet the	Revenue Capital

	Option	Comments	Financial Implications
	to the corresponding vacancy.	needs of the schools it will be an advantage to the governance resource of that school to endorse the application immediately.	
2.	To defer some/all appointments to a future meeting.	Members select applications for recruitment at alternate Cabinet meetings. This means that a delay could add a further two months to the application process. The DCSF recommend that appointments should normally be made to fill vacancies within three months.	Revenue Capital
3.	To reject some/all applications.	Members have the right to reject applications. This would be on the basis that the applicant's skills and knowledge will not support the school and does not fit with the current required need.	

4.2 Risk assessment

4.2.1 The risk assessment identified the role of a focused, continual marketing campaign to attract applications, to ensure a diverse choice of applicants for Members final decision.

4.2.2 Reasons Supporting Recommendation

Under the Authority's Code of Practice, schools have the right to advise the authority of their governing body's needs in terms of balance of skills, gender or any other consideration for the good of the school, and to submit names for consideration.

If the person appointed does not match the specified needs of the governing body and/or the governing body's preferred candidate is rejected, the governing body may request the authority to give its reasons.

Candidates have the right to decline an appointment if it does not meet their preferences

4.2.3 Relevant National/Regional Guidance

The DCSF has now issued guidance on the governance constitution regulations as mentioned in paragraph 5.2 below.

The appointment of school governors contributes to the Community Strategy in the following ways: it supports the three guiding principles of working together, leaving no-one behind and involving people. Those appointed as school governors can support schools to address three of the five key themes, namely learning for life, being safe and secure and caring and health.

5. **CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT**

5.1 Governing bodies are invited to comment on candidates' suitability for re-appointment and to submit nominations to fill these and any casual vacancies that arise. Where a school has expressed a view, this is noted in the candidate's details, as listed in Appendix A.

5.2 Following the closing date for receipt of applications, those applicants who have not requested one particular school are matched to current vacancies, taking account of a variety of factors including any expressed requirements or preferences of both schools and candidates, and the proximity of a school to a candidate's home or business address. As far as possible, schools and applicants are then contacted to discuss the options available and to ascertain that they have no objection to the recommendation proposed.

6. **COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

The Panel endorsed the report. They noted that two applications had been received in respect of Windsor Boys' School and that the school had met with Mr Tisi. They expressed a hope that the school would be able to meet with Councillor Bursnall in advance of the Cabinet meeting. In relation to all applications it was suggested that no further applications should be considered by Cabinet without first completing the revised application form. Members expressed concern about the vacancy at Dedworth Green First School, which had been vacant for a long period of time.

7. **IMPLICATIONS**

The following implications have been addressed where indicated below.

Financial	Legal	Human Rights Act	Planning	Sustainable Development	Diversity & Equality
N/A	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓

Background Papers:

Code of Practice for the Appointment of Education Authority Governors

APPENDIX A

DETAILS OF CANDIDATES LISTED IN ORDER OF SCHOOLS

Criteria for Appointment

LEA governors will be chosen on the basis of the contribution they can bring to a school in terms of their skills and experience as specified in their nomination form, taking account of any supporting information provided by the candidate or by the school.

JULIAN TISI WINDSOR BOYS' SCHOOL ONE APPOINTMENT	Previous Experience	Mr Tisi is a chartered accountant with a strong public service commitment. He currently volunteers as chair to a small charity's committee and as Director of a small residents association.
	Reason for Application	Mr Tisi has family and friends who are teachers and so understands the difference a good governor can make to a school. Mr Tisi believes he has some specific experience appropriate for the role as governor and ultimately he feels he would enjoy the role.
	Other relevant information	This application is supported by the school in principle. A meeting will be taking place with the Chair and Headteacher within the next few weeks.
TOM BURSNALL WINDSOR BOYS' SCHOOL ONE APPOINTMENT	Previous Experience	Cllr Bursnall has experience of working to deadlines and making important decisions in a planned way from his work as company Director with a head hunting business. Cllr Bursnall also has experience of law and how this relates to the governance of schools from his role as Councillor.
	Reason for Application	Cllr Bursnall appreciates how important a good education is to children in order to open doors for opportunity.
	Other relevant information	Cllr Bursnall has a keen interest in the local community, including the education of residents/children.

<p>SUSAN LEIGHS</p> <p>ETON WICK C OF E SCHOOL</p> <p>ONE APPOINTMENT</p>	Previous Experience	Mrs Leighs has a well-established career in education and currently works as a Senior Lecturer for Teach First. Previous to this role Mrs Leighs was the Social Inclusion Vice Principal at Rossdale College where she has helped raise GCSE A-C results from 19% in 2004 to 68% this year. Mrs Leighs was also a staff governor with Rossdale College.
	Reason for Application	Mrs Leighs is keen to continue working with schools in need of improvement and is committed to the principles of inclusion and the right that all children should have access to a high quality education.
	Other relevant information	The school supports this application.

<p>ASGHAR MAJEED</p> <p>OLDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL</p> <p>ONE APPOINTMENT</p>	Previous Experience	Cllr Majeed works as a senior IT consultant where he advises clients on the best way of achieving better results. Cllr Majeed also has experience of planning and budget requirements from working on an extension to a community centre.
	Reason for Application	Cllr Majeed believes a good education is a basic right for children and having graduated through the education system himself, would like to now give something back.
	Other relevant information	The school supports this application.

LORRAINE WOOLRICH OLDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL ONE APPOINTMENT	Previous Experience	Mrs Woolrich has 26yrs teaching experience at Newlands Girls' School and has been a community governor at Oldfield Primary since September 2005.
	Reason for Application	Mrs Woolrich believes that her background in education and experience as a community governor with Oldfield allows her to bring some expertise to the governing body. Mrs Woolrich also enjoys the opportunity to support staff and children in and out of the classroom.
	Other relevant information	This application has been withdrawn now another application has been made for the LEA role. Mrs Woolrich will continue as a Community governor with Oldfield.

GRANT THOMPSON HOLY TRINITY PRIMARY SCHOOL SUNNINGDALE ONE APPOINTMENT	Previous Experience	Mr Thompson has already served over 5 years as a parent governor with Holy Trinity Sunningdale.
	Reason for Application	Due to work commitments during 2005 Mr Thompson had to stand down as parent governor but would now like to re-join the governing body and continue to support and add value to the school.
	Other relevant information	Mr Thompson has already undertaken governor training and has an array of strategic, management and financial experience through his employment, which he feels would add further value to the governing body and school. Mr Thompson's application is supported by the school.

NIGEL SMITH LARCHIFELD PRIMARY SCHOOL RE-APPOINTMENT	Previous Experience	Mr Smith has been a governor with Larchfield, Oldfield and several other schools in the London Borough of Ealing. Mr Smith currently Chairs the Finance Committee at Larchfield.
	Reason for Application	Mr Smith would like to stand again as LEA governor with Larchfield especially following a successful OFSTED inspection.
	Other relevant information	Mr Smith's regularly attends governor training sessions and his application is supported by the school.

DOROTHY KEMP WOODLANDS PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL RE-APPOINTMENT	Previous Experience	Cllr Kemp has many years experience as a governor and currently sits on Woodlands Park and Cox Green governing bodies.
	Reason for Application	Cllr Kemp would like to continue working with Woodlands Park Primary School.
	Other relevant information	Cllr Kemp attends governor training sessions and her application is supported by the school.

