

REPORT TO CABINET

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

Date: 26 February 2009

Member Reporting: Councillor Mrs Quick

Contact Officer(s): Carol Pearce – 01625 796680

Wards Affected: Clewer North, Old Windsor, Pinkneys Green and Bray

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) Councillors be made aware of the new on-line application form for LEA governors which is available on the RBWM website.
- ii) Paul Cash be appointed to Dedworth Green First School, Michael Rose to St Peter's Middle School, Lesley Trivedi to Holyport Manor School, Clive Baskerville to Alwyn Infant School, Isabel Connolly to St Luke's Primary School, Sandra George to Homer First School and Christine Bateson is re-appointed to Charters School.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 3.1 Applications were received for the following vacancies:

<i>School</i>	<i>Ward</i>	<i>Name</i>
Dedworth Green First School	Clewer North	Paul Cash
St Peter's C of E Middle School	Old Windsor	Michael Rose
Holyport Manor School	Bray	Lesley Trivedi
Alwyn Infant School	Pinkneys Green	Clive Baskerville
St Luke's Primary School	Furze Platt	Isabel Connolly
Homer First School	Clewer North	Sandra George

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

3.2 Wards Affected

Clewer North, Old Windsor, Pinkneys Green, Bray and Furze Platt

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 14th January 2009 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
Cookham Rise Primary	Bisham and Cookham	1
Datchet St Mary's	Datchet	1
Dedworth Green First	Clewer North	1
Hilltop First	Clewer South	1
Holyport Manor	Bray	1
Homer First	Clewer North	1
Kings Court First	Old Windsor	1
Oakfield First	Clewer East	1
St Luke's C of E Primary	Furze Platt	1
St Peter's C of E Middle	Old Windsor	1

This represents a vacancy rate of 1.6% of the total number of governors or 10.4% of LEA governors. Ward Councillors for these vacancies have been notified via an e-mail.

3.5 Governors Seeking Re-Appointment

The following education LEA governor is about to reach the end of their current term of office and has submitted a nomination form seeking re-appointment for a further term of office.

Governor	School	Seeking Re-Appointment
Christine Bateson	Charters School	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 to the corresponding vacancy.	If it is deemed that the skills and knowledge of the applicant meet the needs of the schools it will be an advantage to the governance resource of that school to endorse the application immediately.	Revenue Capital
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

6.1 The Panel endorsed the report. They were pleased to note the number of vacant posts being applied for. The Panel requested that one candidate be asked to fully complete the form prior to submission to Cabinet and that in future all candidate forms be fully completed prior to consideration by Scrutiny/Cabinet. The Panel also expressed a hope that all candidates would be able to visit the schools prior to the

date of Cabinet and suggested that this should include meeting both the Headteacher and chair of governors, where possible.

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.

PAUL CASH DEDWORTH GREEN FIRST SCHOOL ONE APPOINTMENT	Previous Experience	Mr Cash is actively involved in his children's school and keen to share the experiences he has learnt. Mr Cash is also married to a retired Headteacher, which has allowed him to gain a reasonable insight in to the value of governors.
	Reason for Application	Mr Cash is interested in working with a school in need of volunteers where his skills can be best utilised.
	Other relevant information	Mr Cash is a Managing Director and has a great deal of experience from this work, which he believes he can bring to a governing body including; working with budgets, working strategically, analysing data and good communication skills. The school supports this application.
MICHAEL ROSE ST PETER'S MIDDLE SCHOOL ONE APPOINTMENT	Previous Experience	Mr Rose is currently a parent governor at St Peter's and is also the Chair of the governing body.
	Reason for Application	Mr Rose's children are unlikely to be at the school for much longer so Mr Rose would like to become an LEA governor to keep his ties with the school and continue to support the governing body.
	Other relevant information	Mr Rose regularly attends meetings and governor training. The school supports this application.

LESLEY TRIVEDI HOLYPORT MANOR SCHOOL ONE APPOINTMENT	Previous Experience	Mrs Trivedi manages the Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) at Holyport Manor so is familiar with the pupils, staff and processes within the school.
	Reason for Application	Mrs Trivedi is keen to become more involved in the running of the school, especially as it is about to go through a major change moving in to the new facility.
	Other relevant information	Mrs Trivedi believes she will be able to see both sides of the story as a governor at Holyport Manor due to her health profession background and being a parent of a child with special needs. The school supports this application.

CLLR CLIVE BASKERVILLE ALWYN INFANT SCHOOL ONE APPOINTMENT	Previous Experience	Cllr Baskerville has previously volunteered as an LEA governor at Upcroft Junior School in Reading.
	Reason for Application	Cllr Baskerville has lived and worked in the area for most of his life and feels a strong desire to give something back. Cllr Baskerville attended Alwyn in the 60's and today many of his neighbours/residents' children attend Alwyn.
	Other relevant information	Cllr Baskerville is committed to the state education system in RBWM. The school supports this application.

ISABEL CONNOLLY ST LUKE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL ONE APPOINTMENT	Previous Experience	Miss Connolly works for a local housing association focussing on community development initiatives including schemes promoting the importance of education and qualifications in building up individuals' confidence and self esteem.
	Reason for Application	Miss Connolly believes schools have a power to bring neighbourhood communities together as well as provide children with the right start in life, which is why Miss Connolly is keen to work with her local school and residents as a governor.
	Other relevant information	Miss Connolly has a wide range of experience working with agencies that serve the community including housing, the police and the fire services. Miss Connolly also has experience of working with local groups to help the community celebrate the cultural diversity of residents. The school supports this application.

SANDRA GEORGE HOMER FIRST SCHOOL ONE APPOINTMENT	Previous Experience	Mrs George works as an Adult Tutor and has previously been involved with the PTA's at various school and toddler groups.
	Reason for Application	Through her work as an Adult Tutor Mrs George has good communication, recruitment and management skills and experience of being a team member. Mrs George would like to offer her time and experience to Homer First School by volunteering as a governor.
	Other relevant information	Mrs George's grandchildren attend Homer First School. The school supports this application.

CLLR CHRISTINE BATESON CHARTERS SCHOOL RE-APPOINTMENT	Previous Experience	Cllr Mrs Bateson has been a governor at Charters for 8 years. Cllr Mrs Bateson has also worked as a governor with other schools over more than 20 years and currently sits on the governing bodies at St Michael's and Heathermount alongside her governorship at Charters.
	Reason for Application	Cllr Mrs Bateson feels she still has a lot to offer as an LEA governor for Charters and would very much like to continue working with the school.

	Other relevant information	Cllr Mrs Bateson has a range of relevant experience that has developed through her work as a governor and a local councillor. This includes; good communication skills, dealing with budgets, analysis of data and recruitment and management of people. The school supports this application.
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