

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2012**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

SUBJECT: **PANEL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF LEA GOVERNORS**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To request Cabinet consider revisions to the procedure for the appointment of Local Authority Governors to School Governing bodies.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 A Member's Panel was set up by the Executive at its meeting on 18 November 2008 comprising 5 Members nominated by Group Leaders. The terms of reference given to the Panel were

- to ratify nominations to vacancies for LA Governors
- to consider disputes concerning nominations , and
- to consider requests to remove Local Authority Governors in accordance with The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005.

2.02 The Panel was created due to a desire for increased transparency in decision making and to assist in the determination of disputed nominations and make recommendations in circumstances where a request for the removal of a LA Governor is received. The Panel does not have power to make decisions and can only make recommendations to the Cabinet or Director of Lifelong Learning.

2.03 In all schools, the power of nomination to LA Governor vacancies is with the Member of the Ward where the school is situated as confirmed by County Council policy (November 2008).

2.04 The Ward Member is asked to consider the following attributes when choosing his/her nomination:-

- nominee has a commitment to raising standards in the school to ensure the best possible education for its pupils;
- nominee understands accountability for the use of funding to ensure value for money;

- nominee has an attitude of fairness and an ability to act without prejudice and in accordance with statutory requirements;
 - -nominees have a commitment to attend regularly and to update their skills and knowledge on all aspects relating to their role.
- 2.05 For Church Aided, Welsh Medium and Secondary Schools (serving larger areas) consultation by the Ward Member with certain feeder Ward Members is carried out prior to ratification by the Panel.
- 2.06 For Community Primary Schools the requirement to consult feeder ward Members is removed where more than 75% of pupils at the school come from within the ward.
- 2.07 The Lifelong Learning Directorate provides administrative support for the appointment process.
- 2.08 At the County Council meeting on the 19 October 2010 consideration was given to a Notice of Motion from Councillors Dodd, Heesom, Attridge and Peers when it was resolved that the Council request the Constitution Committee to review the arrangements, powers and responsibilities of the Panel for the appointment of LA Governors.
- 2.09 The Constitution Committee at their meeting on the 19 October 2011 considered and endorsed the recommendations of the Panel. The Panel had recommended criteria to be considered in making nominations. Nominations should be able to demonstrate:
- i) A commitment to raising standards in the school to ensure the best possible education for its pupils.
 - ii) Understanding the concept of value for money from the public purse.
 - iii) Able to demonstrate the requisite time commitment.
 - iv) Able to demonstrate sufficient local connection with the school's catchment area.
 - v) Any previous experience as a school governor.
 - vi) Skills which the governing body has identified in a self evaluation/skills analysis as a shortage on the governing body.

Subsequent to the meeting of the Constitution Committee, the then Executive Member and current Cabinet Member have made further recommendations that the Panel ceases to exist. However, advice from the Constitution Committee can continue to be applied within the operational framework for appointments.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 Whilst there have been some practical difficulties arising from delays in receiving nominations from and subsequent consultation with ward members, the Constitution Committee consider that the workings of the Panel would improve if the recommendations as set out in 2.09 are implemented. Essentially these changes introduce greater transparency into the process, improve the current paperwork and should prevent unreasonable delay in the nomination process.

3.02 There are currently 44 nominations to LA Governors vacancies waiting ratification for the period to December 2012.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That Cabinet make a decision to disband the Panel with nominations to be approved by Director of Lifelong Learning (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education) under delegated powers, but that the nominations process be revised as recommended by the Constitution Committee.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

None

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

None

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

None

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

None

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

None

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

None

12.00 APPENDICES

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- The School Standards & Framework Act 1999
- The Code of Practice on LEA/school relations 1999
- The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005

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