

Purpose

1. To provide an overview of the Local Authority Governor appointment procedure and examples of how other Councils appoint LA governors.

Information

The Role of Local Authority Governors

2. The County Council appoints LA governors to present the Council's view on the governing body in the same way as other categories of governors represent the views of their constituency. But like other governors they are not delegates and cannot be mandated by the Council to take a particular line. Their first loyalty should be to the school and the community it serves.
3. There are no regulations to determine how Councils should carry out this role and they are free to determine the arrangements for making appointments. They have a duty, however, to ensure that LA governor vacancies are filled without undue delay and to publish the process and criteria for their appointment.

Nottinghamshire's LA Governor Recruitment Strategy

4. In 1998 a strategy for appointing LA governors was agreed by Cabinet. It included: -
 - Establishment of a sub-committee to deal with the appointment and removal of LA governors
 - The Director of Education was responsible for making appointments
 - Published criteria for the appointment of LA governors
 - Protocol for receiving nominations and making appointments
 - Targets for managing governor vacancies
 - Vacancy monitoring arrangements
5. In 2002 the delegated powers for appointing LA governors was transferred to the Cabinet Member for Education and the Director of

Education could exercise the same power in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

6. A Local Authority Governance Consultative Group consisting of three majority party members and a representative of each of the minority political parties replaced the sub-committee. They met once per term to receive data on the level of governor vacancies, monitor progress towards achieving the targets and make recommendations for appointments to the Cabinet Member.
7. In 2003 Cabinet approved an updated version of the strategy developed in 1998 to include activities to recruit/retain governors and recruit school governors from underrepresented groups.
8. Historically Nottinghamshire County Council has appointed governors to reflect the political balance of the Council. Where there are more than two places on a governing body, one place is offered to opposition parties with the majority party filling all other places. The majority party fills both places where there are only two LA governors.
9. When it was not possible to find nominations from political parties the practice was amended to allow vacancies to be filled as quickly as possible by also seeking nominations from schools.
10. All applicants were required to complete an application form and supporting statement to assist the selection of appropriate governors and enable the Council to justify an appointment.
11. In July 2002 revisions to the procedures were agreed by the Cabinet Member for Education and the following added to the arrangements:
 - Where there are no nominations from the political parties for a vacancy which remains open for 12 weeks nominations from school governing bodies will be considered. By following this procedure a number of longstanding vacancies were filled with the understanding that the political balance as described above would apply again at the end of the office of the governor concerned
 - To identify applicants who have the necessary attributes
 - Consultation between the Cabinet Member for Education and the Local Authority Governance Consultative Group should continue to take place

Current Practices

12. In 2009 the Governance Consultative Group was stood down and the role of Local Authority School Governor Co-ordinator (LASGC) established to undertake aspects of the role of this group. Cllr Kevin Rostance (formerly Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services) undertook this role until Cllr Lynn Sykes, Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, took over

the role in 2010. This role is supported by officers within Nottinghamshire Governor Services who implement the recruitment and retention strategy and administer the appointment procedure.

13. All vacancies are advertised in the Nottinghamshire Governor newsletter. A schedule of nominations for appointment and reappointment is produced by governor services for consideration by the LASGC.
14. The LASGC monitors vacancies, considers all applications for appointment/reappointment and makes recommendations to Cllr Owen, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services. He makes all appointments under delegated decision. The Director of Children, Families and Cultural Services can exercise the same power in consultation with the Cabinet Member.
15. The names of nominees for each vacancy and the recommended nominee are then placed on the decision register. Once the call-in period has passed all nominees are informed of the decision via a letter from Nottinghamshire Governor Services.

Examples of other appointment procedures

16. Appendix 1 provides examples from different local authorities.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Education Standing Committee:

consider the procedure for appointing Local Authority Governors and highlight any key actions.

Councillor Liz Yates
Chair of Education Standing Committee

Lead Officer: Gill Thackrey

Attachments: Examples of other Local Authority Governor Appointment Procedures

Background papers (to be tabled): none