



Nottinghamshire  
County Council

# Recruitment and Retention of Governors Review Group

## Minutes

Thursday 28 July 2011 at 2 pm  
County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham

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### Membership

- Councillor John Allin (Vice-chair)  
Councillor Vincent Dobson  
Councillor Sybil Fielding
- Councillor Rev Tom Irvine  
Councillor Mel Shepherd
- Councillor Brian Wombwell  
Councillor Liz Yates (Chair)  
Mr David Richards

- absent

### OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Daniel Reynafarje – Governance Support Officer  
Gill Thackrey – Group Manager Business Development and Support  
Leonie Meikle – Governor Services Manager

### Membership

The membership of the Review Group, as set out above, was noted along with the election of Councillor Liz Yates as Chair and Councillor John Allin as Vice-Chair.

### Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors John Allin, Rev Tom Irvine and Brian Wombwell.

### Declarations of Interest by Members or Officers

None.

### Introduction and Scope of Review

Members welcomed Ms Gill Thackrey, Group Manager Business Development and Support, and Ms Leonie Meikle, Governor Services Manager, Children, Families and Cultural Services.

Ms Thackrey and Ms Meikle provided Members with an overview of the key issues relating to the recruitment and retention of school governors. They explained that Nottinghamshire is generally good at retaining governors, but Ashfield and Mansfield are two areas of significant recruitment need. They stated that vacancies were advertised, but word of mouth has always

been the best form of recruitment. It was recommended that Members review the general processes used, as well as the impact of the Government white paper.

In response to questions and comments, Ms Thackrey and Ms Meikle replied:-

- There is a problem with the retention of parent governors as majority of them will leave once their child leaves the school.
- The School Governors' One-Stop Shop is funded by businesses and the DfE with a main office in London, but local officers available.
- There is still a political process for sponsoring governors in Nottinghamshire although there are other local authorities who don't use this process.
- You can be a governor of as many schools as you would like.
- With regards to equal opportunities, governors are made-up of approximately 10% ethnic minority in comparison to the 13% pupil population.

The following recommendations for the course of the review were made:-

- Look at governing bodies in Federations and Collaborations
- Look at the retention of parent governors
- Provide a full breakdown of figures
- Speak to a local officer from the One-Stop Shop
- Explore the appointment of Local Authority Governors
- Provide a copy of the application form given to Governors
- Explore why recruitment is harder in Ashfield and Mansfield
- Look at the training of governors
- Speak to a governor from a Foundation School
- Speak to Cabinet Member Lynn Sykes

The recommendations were noted by Ms Thackrey and Ms Meikle and a work programme for the following six meetings will be created.

The meeting closed at 3.05pm.

CHAIR

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