

## Children & Education Select Committee

### Item under consideration: School Governance Task Group – Interim Report

**Date Considered: 27 November 2014**

- 1 The Children & Education Select Committee considered an interim report from the Surrey School Governance Task Group. A copy of this report is available in the [agenda papers](#)<sup>1</sup> for the Committee meeting.
- 2 The Committee ask that the Cabinet note the key points of this report:
  - The new statutory guidance on the nomination of Local Authority governors provides an opportunity to review the current appointment and nomination process in order to support the principles outlined in the recommendation.
  - The changing expectations placed of school governing bodies, in light of updated national policy and guidance from the Department for Education.
  - The Local Authority's role in supporting school improvement and better outcomes for Surrey's children, and which the Task Group believes can be achieved in part through the support offered to school governors.
- 3 In light of the Interim Report the Committee recommends:
  - a) That the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning, in conjunction with the Assistant Director for Schools and Learning, develops a new Local Authority governor nomination process.

That the new process operates under the following principles:

- Candidates to be considered by a nomination panel set up with a clear delegation of responsibilities;
- That the Local Authority governor nominee's skills match the required skills of the individual governing body, in order to maximise their effectiveness;
- That appropriate checks are made as to the suitability of a candidate;

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<sup>1</sup> Children and Education Select Committee. 'Surrey School Governance Task Group – Interim Report'. 27 November 2014  
<http://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=335&MId=3638&Ver=4>  
(Accessed 27 November 2014)

- That the local Member is informed of any LA governor vacancy, and then invited to put forward a candidate for consideration and join the nomination panel;
  - That a nomination is made within 20 working days of the Council receiving formal notification of a vacancy or a re-nomination request, in order to ensure vacancy rates and the costs of administering the process are kept to a minimum
- b) That the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning and the Children, Schools and Families Directorate makes arrangements for a regular forum for all Local Authority governors to discuss the responsibilities and priorities of the Council.
- c) That the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning and the Assistant Director for Schools and Learning encourage all Surrey state-funded schools to hold open governors' meetings, to be conducted according to an engagement protocol as agreed by the governing body.
- 4 The Task Group will propose a further set of recommendations in its final report to the Select Committee on 26 January 2015.

**Dr Zully Grant-Duff**  
**Chairman of the Children & Education Select Committee**