

CABINET RESPONSE TO CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE

**SCHOOL GOVERNANCE TASK GROUP – INTERIM REPORT
(considered by C&ESC on 27 November 2014)**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

1. 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.
2. That the new process operates under the following principles:
 - Candidates to be a 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;
 - 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
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The Task Group will propose a further set of recommendations in its final report to the Select Committee on 26 January 2015.

RESPONSE:

I accept the recommendations with the following caveats:

On bullet point 4, I suggest that the local member is invited to nominate a candidate but not then to join the nomination panel. This would allow fair consideration of the virtues of the various candidates.

Under bullet point 3, I do not recommend a separate meeting for Local Authority Governors. It may be appropriate to invite all Governors to the Chairs of Governors' meetings.

**Linda Kemeny
Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning
16 December 2014**

