

Children & Education Select Committee

Item under consideration: School Governance Task Group – Final Report

Date Considered: 26 January 2015

1. The Children & Education Select Committee considered the final report from the Surrey School Governance Task Group, and also the Cabinet responses to the recommendations made in the Task Group's Interim Report. These reports are available in the agenda papers for the Committee meetings on [26 January 2015](#)¹ and [27 November 2014](#)².
2. The Committee discussed the role of Local Authority (LA) governors. It was advised that the Department for Education (DfE) set out in guidance that the LA must not attempt to influence an LA governor. Members discussed the potential risk associated with the perception of LA governors as representatives of the LA. The Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning highlighted the need to engage with and support all Surrey governors.
3. The role of the clerk to governors was highlighted by the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning. The Committee was informed that this was another means by which the LA was able to circulate key training and support information to governing bodies.
4. The Committee supported engagement with all governors through Local Committees.
5. Following the final report of the Task Group the Committee recommends:
 - a) That the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning engages with local economic and enterprise partners, Phase Council representatives and SGOSS to consider how the Council can best encourage individuals in the business sector to serve as school governors.
 - b) That the Cabinet Member and Assistant Director for Schools and Learning use the Council's internal communication network to actively promote the school governor role to all local government staff.

¹ Children and Education Select Committee. 'Surrey School Governance Task Group – Final Report'. 26 January 2015

<http://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=335&MId=3639&Ver=4>
(Accessed 27 January 2015)

² 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 January 2015)

- c) That the Directorate for Children, Schools and Families work with its professional governance partners to develop and strengthen peer to peer support between school governing bodies, and relevant professional associations.
- d) That the Internal Audit Team update the Committee on any themes emerging from the financial audits in schools following the conclusion of the 2015/16 audit plan.
- e) That the Council's Education Finance Team and Internal Audit Team are invited to attend a future meeting of all Surrey governors in order to highlight the skills and expertise of the Internal Audit Team and discuss the role of governing bodies in financial and risk management.
- f) That the Assistant Director for Schools and Learning considers how to involve the Internal Audit Team in future governor training on financial and risk management.

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