



## COUNTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (GOVERNORS)

WEDNESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2023

### 3.00 PM REMOTE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

MEMBERSHIP – Councillor Bob Standley (Chair)  
Councillors Colin Belsey, Roy Galley, Phil Scott, and Alan Shuttleworth

ALSO INVITED - Denise Kong, Monica Whitehead, Jenny Barnard Langston, Alison Flynn,  
John Murray, Clare Cornford, Charlotte Johnstone.

### A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (*Pages 3 - 4*)
2. Apologies for absence
3. Disclosure of Interests  
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
4. Urgent items  
Notification of any items which the Chair considers urgent and proposes to take at the appropriate part of the agenda. Any members who wish to raise urgent items are asked, wherever possible, to notify the Chair before the start of the meeting. In so doing, they must state the special circumstances which they consider justify the matter being considered urgent.
5. Academies Update (standing item)  
John Murray, Senior Manager: Leadership and Governance, Governor and Clerking Services.
6. Local Authority Governor Appointments and Governor Services Update (*Pages 5 - 6*)  
Clare Cornford, Governor and Clerking Officer, Governor and Clerking Service.
7. ESGF Verbal Update for Councillors to include:
  - ESGF Membership Update
  - Exclusions. Feedback from the People's Scrutiny Committee
  - Attendance
  - Letter to MPs about school funding
8. Feedback from ESGF sessions and Local Area Forums
  - Chairs Networking
  - Celebrating Good GovernanceLocal Area Forum (December) – Getting it right for children with SEND
9. Any other items previously notified under agenda item 4

PHILIP BAKER  
Assistant Chief Executive

County Hall, St Anne's Crescent  
LEWES BN7 1UE

7 November 2023

Contact Clare Cornford (Governor and Clerking Officer – Governor and Clerking Service), 01323  
466887,

Email: [clare.cornford@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:clare.cornford@eastsussex.gov.uk)



## County Consultative Committee - Minutes

### Summary Report

Meeting: County Consultative Committee comprising of Councillors and East Sussex Governors' Forum (ESGF).

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Present: Councillors – Bob Standley (Chair), Colin Belsey, Roy Galley, Alan Shuttleworth

ESCC Officers: Clare Cornford, John Murray, Charlotte Johnstone, Rosie O'Brien (Minutes).

Members of the ESGF: Karen Marr, Denise Kong

Apologies: Monica Pell (JBL unable to access).

Item	Decisions and Outcomes	Action
1	<u>Minutes of Previous County Consultative Committee 29/03/2023</u> The minutes were noted as a true record with no further comments.	
2	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Monica Pell sent apologies. Accepted by all members.	
3	<u>Disclosure of Interests</u> No interests were declared.	
4	<u>Urgent Items</u> No urgent items.	
5	<u>Academies Update (Standing Item)</u> Verbal update from JM. Since the last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Common School is in the process of joining DCAT in Autumn 2023.</li> <li>• St Andrews Infant School is in the process of joining DCAT in Autumn 2023.</li> <li>• Tollgate Junior School is in the process of joining DCAT in Autumn 2023.</li> <li>• Chantry Primary School is in the process of consulting around becoming an Academy with DCAT. Should this go ahead the timescale is to be confirmed.</li> </ul> JM stated that proportionately more secondary schools are academies. At primary, proportionately more schools are maintained.	
6	<u>Local Authority Governor Appointment and Governor Services Update</u> Update from CC. Since the last meeting there have been 2 Local Authority Governor Appointments to Pashley Down Infant School and St Philip's Catholic Primary School and more applications have been submitted and are being processed. Governorhub has been further updated and there are currently only 212 Governors not signed up. There will be work done over the summer break on this. Only 1-2 training sessions were cancelled within the year.  From September, there will be new sessions added to the list that Governor Services offer. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance of the School Curriculum.</li> <li>• Evidencing Challenge.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership on the Board.</li> <li>• SEND.</li> </ul> <p>Since September 2022 there has been 199 new governors, and 21 expressions of interest. Recruitment is an area being picked up in the 23-24 academic year.</p> <p>DK added that she has recruited a good governor from Governor Services recruitment. KM stated that Governorhub has a lot of positives, it is successful and helpful.</p>	
7	<p><u>ESCC Education Division Restructure – Further Update</u> Update from JM. Phase 3 of the restructure is complete, and the restructure has almost been finalised. This will create many new opportunities for staff.</p> <p>JM updated the Councillors with the new Inclusion and Partnerships lead – Katie Ridgeway, who will join some future County Consultative Committee meetings.</p>	
8	<p><u>ESGF Verbal Update for Councillors</u> To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebration and Review of Good Governance.</li> </ul> <p>Update from KM &amp; DK. DK is now the Chair of the ESGF. Members of the ESGF discussed the upcoming celebration of good governance and expressed how the main focus on the meeting is the positive outcomes of governance within the last academic year. This includes positive feedback received from networking sessions. The ESGF has reflected on work with boards over the year and how the networking sessions will be continued into the 2023-24 academic year.</p> <p>One area the ESGF would like to develop is recruitment to the ESGF as several vacancies have opened. The councillors agree that governor input is essential throughout the academic year.</p>	
9	<p><u>County Consultative Committee 2023-24</u> It was agreed that the current set up will be continued into the new academic year. This includes 3 meetings over the year approximately the same times as the previous year (November, March &amp; July).</p>	
10	<p><u>Any other items previously notified under item 4</u> N/A</p>	

**Report to:** County Consultative Committee

**Date of meeting:** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**By:** Clare Cornford

**Title:** Local Authority Governor appointments and Governor and Clerking Service Update for Councillors

**Purpose:** To update Councillors on the nomination for appointment of local authority governors and governor training

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1) For information**

#### **11 Background**

1.1 The local authority has a statutory duty to approve nominations for local authority governors. Once nominated, schools then appoint local authority governors onto their governing board.

1.2 This report provides a summary of local authority governor applications approved for nomination, and information about the level of governor vacancies across the county.

#### **2 Supporting information**

2.1 Since the report sent to Councillors on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 14 local authority governors were nominated for appointment, all were approved for a 4 year term of office. There were five new appointments and nine reapplications.

Iain Day	Cradle Hill	Reapplication
Isabel Hodger	Guestling-Bradshaw	Reapplication
Jenny Barnard-Langston	Bluebell Federation	Reapplication
Alison Doig	Woodlands Federation	Reapplication
James Pratt	St Thomas a Becket	Reapplication
Kevin Doherty	Battle & Langton CE Primary	Reapplication
Roger Elias	All Saint's CEP School	Reapplication
Kathy Robinson	Robertsbridge Community College	Reapplication
Michelle Warner	Harlands Primary School	Reapplication
Lucy Constantine	Wallands CP School	New Application
Simon Jones	Maynards Green Primary School	New Application
Zoe Holland	St Thomas a Becket CofE Federation	New Application
Katharine Rabson-Stark	Uckfield College	New Application
Ann Mason	Seaford Primary School	New Application

2.2 The Governor and Clerking Service has now embedded the new GovernorHub System for booking training and recording governor details. Out of the 1306 governors in maintained schools and academies who buy into the Governor and Clerking Service, only 185 have not yet signed up to the new system and we are working with these governors to onboard them. We have increased our communication methods with governors which has increased engagement and led to an increase in governors signing up for training sessions.

2.3 The Governor and Clerking Service has greatly enhanced the training, networking and briefing sessions for the 2023-4 academic year. A training session called “evidencing challenge” will support governors in effective challenge and holding school leaders to account. Clerks are also invited to this session and it will support them to capture and evidence the challenge in their minutes that Ofsted will look at.

Another new session is “governance of the primary curriculum”. This session ran twice in term 1 with 63 governors attending over the 2 sessions. Feedback included "This was a brilliant course, full of information and very practical. It did a great job of covering a complex area in a short amount of time. It will definitely shape our monitoring for the coming year." And “It was a really good informative session. Lots and lots of information given. Very logical sequencing of information”.

Another popular session is “be prepared for Ofsted. An experienced governor who attended this session fed back “probably the most informative and best training course I attended in 2 years”.

Of the 107 governing boards who subscribed to the Governor and Clerking Service SLA, every single board has accessed at least one governor training, networking and briefing session in the last academic year.

2.4 There have been 76 new governors appointed since the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 in maintained schools. There has also been some further success with the Governor Recruitment Campaign, with 10 people expressing an interest in becoming a governor since the meeting in July. The Governor and Clerking Service are working with Governors for Schools to support the recruitment campaign as they have a lot of corporate contacts within local and national companies that East Sussex schools will be able to access.

2.5 Clerking: As it currently stands the locum clerk service have supported 8 meetings across 5 schools since September. We also provide support and advice to the schools who are without clerks to come up with innovative methods to recruit new clerks. This includes vacancy promotions on the school website, in the school newsletter, in school promotion i.e. posters. Promoting vacancies at school fairs/fetes and events, speaking to friends and neighbours who may be interested. Also reaching out to parents of children in reception who may be interested in returning to work now that they're children are in school.

Our current cohort of locum clerks are working this role in addition to their normal clerking roles, some of our locum clerk at multiple schools, so we are always impressed by their commitment to supporting our schools and know they are rewarded in increasing their experience and knowledge in clerking too.

We have recently recruited another locum clerk to our pool and have received multiple registers of interest in becoming a locum, so we are looking forward to the development of the locum clerk service within our service offer to schools.

**Clare Cornford**  
**Governor and Clerking Service Officer**

Contact Officer: Clare Cornford  
Email: [clare.cornford@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:clare.cornford@eastsussex.gov.uk)

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None