

**Report to:** County Consultative Committee

**Date of meeting:** 24 January 2019

**By:** Jessica Stubbings

**Title:** Local Authority Governor Update for Councillors

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

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **The Committee is recommended to note the report**

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#### **1 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 last meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018, 8 local authority governors were nominated for appointment, all were approved for a 4 year term of office. Of the 8, 6 were reappointments and 2 were new appointments.

John Crouch	The Quercus Federation	Reappointment
Lucy Glyn	High Hurstwood Primary school	Reappointment
Alison Doig	The Woodlands Federation	Reappointment
Nicola Loach	St Michael's Withyham	New Appointment
Jane Gross	Little Horsted Primary School	Reappointment
Nigel Kirton	Icklesham Primary School	Reappointment
Nicola Lacey	Pashley Down Infant School	Reappointment
Ken Caplin	Priory School	New Appointment

2.2 Of the 109 local authority governor places in East Sussex maintained schools, there are currently 13 vacancies. This is a vacancy rate of 11.9%. The overall vacancy rate for all types of governors in East Sussex is currently 17.4%. Inspiring Governance estimate that the national vacancy rate for governors is between 16% and 20%.

2.3 Further information on the governor vacancies across East Sussex, by type of governor is shown in Appendix 1.

2.4 Information on governing bodies and governors is accessed through the governors online database. This is a database maintained by the local authority; clerks to governing bodies for local authority maintained schools are responsible for updating the information on their governors and governing boards. The governor and clerking team conduct regular checks of the data to highlight inaccuracies and missing data. Clerks have dedicated training through the clerk network meetings and training sessions on using and updating the database. The local authority does not hold governor information for academy schools.

2.4 The governor and clerking service supports governing boards in a number of ways to recruit governors. This includes working with Inspiring Governance <https://www.inspiringgovernance.org/> and Governors for Schools <https://www.governorsforschools.org.uk/> to help advertise governor vacancies and identify potential governors.

Governors for Schools have stated that they currently have 101 governor vacancies registered in East Sussex. Since the beginning of November, they have placed 25 governors. They are currently in the process of placing another 12. A number of those signing up have specifically quoted the East Sussex governor recruitment campaign as the place they heard about becoming a governor. Inspiring Governance have 90 potential governors registered on their website.

2.5 The team also supports governing boards that have a large number of vacancies, or have a need for experienced governors to strengthen their board, to identify and recruit experienced governors. Since September 2017 the team have identified and placed 13 governors at 11 schools.

2.6 The local authority has recently invited applications for Local Support Governors (LSGs), these are experienced and skilled governors who are willing to help support other governing boards across East Sussex. In addition to the 8 existing LSGs, we received a further 7 applications to join the program, with 4 of the applications being successful. Local support governors can be nominated as interim additional governors or chair of governors as required, they will also be asked to sit on governor panels, facilitate governor to governor networks and provide advice on specific issues.

2.7 The local authority are currently running a recruitment campaign for governors in East Sussex, this includes a digital campaign on social media, local radio and publicity across the county, including on trains and in bus stops. The campaign will be two fold, aimed at employers to consider releasing their staff to be governors to help develop their skills in the workplace, and also at individuals. This campaign should have a positive impact of the number of governor vacancies in East Sussex, this impact will be monitored and reported to this meeting.

### **Governor Training**

2.8 The Governor Online database that is used for governors to sign up for training does not currently have the facility to report on governor training by governor type. We are still in discussion with the company to develop a report to show this information so that it can be shared at future meetings. Since September 2018, we have run 35 training courses for governors with 531 attendees.

## **3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 The Committee is recommended to note the report.

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### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None