



Report – Community and Children’s Services Committee

Appointments to Academies

*To be presented on Thursday 21st June 2012
To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

Summary

1. This report seeks the approval of the Court to formalise the arrangements for appointing City of London Corporation (City Corporation) governors to the governing bodies of its three sponsored academies in Hackney, Islington and Southwark. The majority of City Corporation appointments to each academy are subject to appointment at the same time. We believe, however, that it would be more beneficial to stagger these appointments. As the City Corporation is soon to reappoint governors to two of its sponsored academies, now is the ideal opportunity to establish the conditions for appointments to the governing bodies of these academies.

2. We recommend that:
 - Members are appointed to the governing bodies of the City Corporation’s sponsored academies following the usual arrangements for Member appointments to outside bodies;
 - Approval is given to delegate the ratification of non-Member appointments from the Court to this, your Community and Children’s Services Committee.
 - That future appointment of Members is phased and based on the share of the vote received by each appointee in ballot at the Court of Common Council;
 - The process for appointing non-Members is agreed, with this Committee approving the appointment;
 - Non-Member appointments are phased, with this Committee deciding on the length of term for each appointee; and
 - Approval is granted to increase the number of sponsor governors at the Hackney Academy to reflect the increase in parental representation on the governing body.

Main Report

Background

1. The City Corporation currently sponsors three London academy schools; in Southwark, Islington and Hackney. Under the schools' governance arrangements, as approved by the Court of Common Council in 2003 (Southwark) and 2008 (Islington and Hackney), the City Corporation appoints Common Council Members to the schools' governing bodies for a 4-year term. There are 4 Member appointments to the City of London Academy Southwark (Southwark Academy), where the City Corporation is the sole sponsor, and 2 Member appointments to the City Academy Hackney (Hackney Academy) and the City of London Academy Islington (Islington Academy).
2. In 2008 the Court resolved that subsequent appointments to the governing bodies of the Islington and Hackney schools would be undertaken following the usual arrangements for membership of other outside bodies. As 2012 is the first year in which Member appointments to these governing bodies expire, we note that the appointment process will be carried out in this manner. Southwark Academy does not at present have these stipulations on the appointment of City Corporation Members to its governing body.
3. The City Corporation also appoints non-Members to the governing bodies: 4 to Southwark and 2 to Hackney and Islington. There is currently no uniform arrangement across the 3 schools on the process of appointing non-Member Governors.
4. The terms of office of City Corporation Members currently sitting on the Hackney and Islington governing bodies will expire in the coming months. The terms of all City Corporation Members on the Southwark Academy governing body expire in October 2015.
5. The Member terms on each Board, with the exception of the slight time-lag at Islington, expire at the same time, leaving the City Corporation in a position where the Court will need to appoint all its Members for one Board at the same time.
6. In its report to the Court of Common Council in 2003 regarding the constitutional arrangements of Southwark Academy, the Policy and Resources Committee asked officers to explore the possibility for 'phased retirements' of the Member Governors.
7. To improve the management of the City Corporation's relationship with its sponsored academies, we recommend more formal and uniform arrangements for the appointment and management of City Corporation appointments. This includes following the usual arrangements for appointments to outside bodies when appointing City Corporation Members to the governing bodies. This was recommended by the Court in 2008 when the governance arrangements of the Hackney and Islington Academies were approved.
8. In addition, to avoid a situation where all City Corporation Member appointments are made at the same time, we propose that for the next set of elections, appointments be staggered to allow for a phased approach. This is in accordance with the practice for all non-ward committee appointments.

9. To ensure continuity, should the Chairman of the Board be re-elected then they will serve the full 4-year term and the term limits of the other Court appointees will be dependent on the number of votes obtained. If the Chairman is not re-elected then the terms of all Court appointees shall be based on the number of votes obtained. Consequently, for Boards with two Court Members the appointee with the highest number of votes will be awarded a 4-year term and the second placed appointee will be awarded a 3-year term. For Boards with 4 Court Members, it will be phased in yearly stages; 4,3,2,1. As per the usual arrangements, should a ballot not be necessary, terms will be based on seniority on the Court.
10. To formalise the arrangement for the appointment of non-Members to the governing bodies, we propose that the ratification of the appointment of non-Members should be delegated from the Court of Common Council to your Community and Children's Services Committee.
11. Under these proposed arrangements, for the next set of appointments we will propose a term length for non-Members that will ensure all City Corporation appointments are staggered over the next 4 years.
12. We anticipate that this procedure will only need to be carried out once. With the phasing in place, each subsequent appointment or re-appointment, both Member and non-Member, will be for the usual 4-year term.
13. Moreover, Hackney Academy is expanding its pupil numbers and as a result the governing body is seeking to expand its parental representation on the Board. In accordance with statutory practice, the number of governors appointed by the school's sponsors must also be increased. We therefore propose that approval is granted to increase the number of sponsor appointments as per the school's Articles of Association.

Conclusion

14. The first round of re-appointments to the governing bodies of the Hackney and Islington academies presents an opportunity to formalise and make uniform governing arrangements surrounding City Corporation appointments to the respective Boards; including both Member and non-Member appointments.
15. To avoid a situation where all appointments will need to be reviewed at the same time, a phased process is felt to be the best way to continue in the future, beginning with the next round of appointments in July 2012.
16. In codifying this process, the City Corporation is able to better support the governance of its sponsored academies in future years.

All which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court

DATED this 11th Day of May 2012

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee

The Revd. Dr Martin Dudley
Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee