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| Committee(s) Education Board | Dated: 14 September 2017 |
| Subject: City of London Academies Trust (04504128) governor appointments and overview of appointment processes for City Corporation associated schools | Public |
| Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services | For Information |
| Report author: Jeanne Barnard | |

Summary

This report asks Members to note the appointment of Valerie Bossman-Quarshie and Colette Bowe to the local governing bodies of the City of London Academy Highgate Hill and the City of London Academy Highbury Grove, respectively. The latter appointment has required a change to the standard Local Governing Body Terms of Reference to allow for eight appointments by the Trust Board rather than seven in this case. These appointees have particular skills and experience which are seen as beneficial to the schools concerned. The report also notes the different appointment processes for schools associated with the City Corporation, the current membership of each school governing body, and the City Corporation's Skills Audit form for school governors.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note in respect of the City of London Academies Trust (04504128), the appointment of Valerie Bossman-Quarshie to the Highgate Hill local governing body and Colette Bowe to the Highbury Grove local governing body.
- Note that in making the additional appointment to the Highbury Grove local governing body the Trust Board has varied the standard Local Governing Body Terms of Reference to allow for eight appointments by the Trust Board rather than seven in this case as it was considered to be in the best interests of the school.
- Note the appointment processes for governors to the City Corporation's schools.
- Note the current membership of the City Corporation's schools' governing bodies.
- Note the City Corporation's Skills Audit form for school governors.

Main Report

Background

1. The Board of the City of London Academies Trust (04504128) (the Trust) approved the local governing body membership of the Trust's new schools at its meeting on 5 July 2017. These decisions were taken in accordance with the standard Local Governing Body Terms of Reference (ToR) which had been agreed by the Trust Board on 6 December 2016 and which were presented to the Education Board on 12 January 2017 as required under the terms of the

Sponsorship Agreement agreed between the City Corporation and the Trust on 31 May 2016. The Education Board approved these further local governing board appointments at their meeting on 20 July 2017. Since then, further candidates for Highgate Hill and for Highbury Grove have been appointed by the Trust.

Current Position

2. The appointment of Valerie Bossman-Quarshie to the Highgate Hill local governing body and Colette Bowe to the Highbury Grove local governing body was approved by the Trust Board at their meeting on 6 September 2017.
3. Valerie Bossman-Quarshie was a Foundation Governor at Mt Carmel Catholic School for Girls (now the City Academy Highgate Hill). She will provide valuable experience and continuity on the local governing body.
4. Colette Bowe is the current Chairman of the Banking Standards Board. She has substantial governance experience, also has experience in the education sector, chairing the Queen Mary University of London Governing Body, and serving as a governor on the Bancrofts School governing body.
5. The appointment of Colette Bowe means the local governing body of Highbury Grove will have more governors than prescribed by the Trust local governing body ToR. Having regard to the particular circumstances relating to the opening of Highbury Grove school, the skills offered by Colette Bowe were considered to justify a departure from the agreed policy (to allow for an additional appointment by the Academy Trust Board) as being in the best interests of the school and the Trust. The Trust agreed that making an additional governor appointment would have a positive impact as the school transitions to become a City of London academy.

Appointment processes for City Corporation schools

6. The City Corporation supports a range of schools with different governance structures, with a corresponding appointment process for governors. The City Corporation supports four different types of schools:
 - Three independent schools which are run directly by the City Corporation in our general corporate capacity
 - Two co-sponsored academies, co-sponsored by the City Corporation in our general corporate capacity
 - Eight sole sponsored academies (through City of London Academies Trust) in our general corporate capacity
 - One maintained primary school in the City of London are in respect of which the City Corporation is the responsible local authority
7. The appointment processes for co-sponsored and sole sponsored academies are attached at Appendix 1. The Education Board has no role in appointing governors to the independent or maintained schools' governing bodies, which remain the responsibility of the Court of Common Council.
8. Members can send nominees to jeanne.barnard@cityoflondon.gov.uk at any time. These names are then held in a central database, and are considered along with other nominees when a vacancy occurs having regard to the particular skills that may be required in each case.

Current membership of City Corporation schools' governing bodies

9. Tables setting out the school governors for each school associated with the City Corporation are attached at Appendix 2.

City Corporation Skills Audit form for school governors.

10. The City Corporation's Skills Audit form for school governors is attached at Appendix 3. It also includes the National Governors' Association's skills checklist that can be used during skills audit reviews.

Conclusion

11. Members are asked to note the appointment of Valerie Bossman-Quarshie and Colette Bowe to the local governing bodies of Highgate Hill and Highbury Grove respectively. It also asks Members to note the different appointment processes for governors at the various schools associated with the City Corporation and the current membership of each governing body.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Appointment processes for City Corporation schools
- Appendix 2 – Governing body membership of City Corporation schools
- Appendix 3 – Skills Audit

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