

Committee(s) Board of Governors of the City of London Freemen's School	Dated: 27 November 2017
Subject: Confirmation of Sub Committees and Focus Groups	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
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Summary

The Board appointed its sub-committees for 2017/18 at its meeting in June 2017. Since then, a new Clerk has been assigned to the Board, the terms of reference of some of the sub-committees amended, and a further body – the Masterplan Focus Group – convened. This report provides the Board with the opportunity to note the most up to date terms of reference of its sub-committees and update their membership as required.

Recommendation(s)

That Members,

- Note the terms of reference of the sub-committees and focus groups of the Board;
- Confirm the membership of those sub-committees and focus groups for the remainder of the 2017/18 academic year.

Main Report

Background

Bursary Committee

1. The Bursary Committee considers applications for 'Hardship Bursaries' to pupils where the parents fall into financial hardship and are unable to pay the school fees or where a pupil is unable to take up a place at the respective School because of financial hardship. These awards are funded from the charitable trust funds for the school and any awards made are reviewed on an annual basis (after three terms of assistance).
2. Meetings precede Board meetings as and when an application for assistance is received.

Finance, General Purposes and Estates Sub-Committee

3. This sub-committee was formed in June 2007. In October 2011, its membership was expanded from a total of five to six members as to avoid the sub-committee being inquorate.

4. The sub-committee has a monitoring role, identifying any financial problems before they became serious and recommending a course of action to the Board so that it may take any relevant decisions.
5. The sub-committee meets once a term in sufficient time to report to the Board any matters that need agreement.

Academic and Personnel Sub-Committee

6. This sub-committee was formed as the Academic and Education Sub-Committee in June 2007. In October 2011, its membership was expanded from a total of five to six members as to avoid the sub-committee being inquorate.
7. The title of the sub-committee was changed to the Academic and Personnel Sub-Committee in September 2017, and its terms of reference adjusted to reflect its responsibility to monitor general safeguarding matters.
8. The Academic and Personnel Sub Committee has an important role in supporting the Head and senior management team, ensuring that important curricular and staffing issues are given appropriate discussion by Governors. To enable the Sub Committee to fulfil this role it is expected that Governors appointed to the Sub Committee would, with the Headmasters support, attend classes from time to time.
9. The sub committee meets once a term in sufficient time to report to the Board any matters that need agreement.

City of London Freemen's School Masterplan Focus Group

10. This focus group was formed by the Board at its meeting in September 2017 to act as an informal sounding board for officers engaged in delivering the City of London Freemen's School Masterplan and associated projects.

Appendix

- Composition, Quorum and Terms of Reference of Sub-Committees

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(A) Bursary Committee

Composition

- Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Governors of the City of London Freemen's School
- Up to five other Governors appointed by the Board of Governors.

Quorum

The quorum shall be any three Governors.

Terms of Reference

The Bursary Committee at their sole discretion after considering recommendations by the Headmaster of the School have power by a simple majority of those present and voting at a meeting of the Bursary Committee to apply the Fund for the advancement of public education by the following purposes:-

- (i) contributing towards the fees payable to the School on behalf of suitably qualified pupils who but for financial assistance having commenced education at the School would not be able to continue their education at the School;
- (ii) contributing towards the fees payable to the School on behalf of pupils of academic merit who but for financial assistance would not be able to obtain suitable education at the School;
- (iii) such other charitable purposes as shall be associated with the School as the Bursary Committee shall direct.

Provided always that no such bursary shall be made in respect of a pupil who is the issue of a parent of a member of the Board or of the spouse of such a member.

(B) **Finance, General Purposes and Estates Sub-Committee**

Composition

- Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Governors of the City of London Freemen's School
- Up to four other Governors appointed by the Board of Governors (one of whom must be a Common Council Governor).
- All Governors on the Board are eligible to serve, and any Governors serving on this sub-committee shall serve on the Academic and Personnel sub-committee.

Quorum

The quorum shall be any three Governors.

Any decision taken by the Sub-Committee shall require the agreement of a majority of Common Council Governors present at the meeting and voting.

The Sub-Committee should report to each Board of Governors' meeting.

Terms of Reference

With power to act on the following matters:

- To agree action to be taken on arrears of fees; and
- To co-opt any Governor of the Board or any appropriately qualified professional to give advice on specific matters

To make recommendations for the Board's approval on the following matters:

- the annual budget, scrutinised at the appropriate stage in the planning cycle and to monitor spending against the budget each term;
- the acceptance, or not, of the annual budget;
- any proposed Fee increases;
- consideration of any proposals for Major capital spending, as defined in the Capital Programme;
- the review of any investments and reserves held by the school;
- major developments (e.g. new buildings);
- compliance with health & safety requirements; and
- to make recommendations to the full Board on any other finance issues which may arise (e.g. a rise in employers' contribution to pensions, salary structure, etc).

(C) **Academic and Personnel Sub-Committee**

Composition

- Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Governors of the City of London Freemen's School
- Up to four other Governors appointed by the Board of Governors (one of whom must be a Common Council Governor).
- All Governors on the Board are eligible to serve, and any Governors serving on this sub-committee shall serve on the Finance, General Purposes and Estates sub-committee.

Quorum

The quorum shall be any three Governors.

Any decision taken by the sub-committee shall require the agreement of a majority of Common Council Governors present at the meeting and voting.

The sub-committee should report to each Board of Governors' meeting.

Terms of Reference

To make recommendations for the Board's approval on the following matters:

- to monitor general compliance with child protection requirements (not involving individual cases); and
- the development, monitoring and review of policies relating to educational provision to ensure compliance with legal or good practice requirements;
- curriculum and co-curricular issues;
- standards, including academic results;
- pastoral and ethos policy and practice;
- INSET and Professional Development policy and practice;
- staffing issues;
- to make recommendations on any other issues which have been referred by the full Board.

With power to act on the following matters:

- To agree requests for Sabbatical Leave; and
- To co-opt any Governor of the Board or any appropriately qualified professional to give advice on specific matters.

(D) **City of London Freeman's School Masterplan Focus Group**

Composition

- Deputy Chairman
- Up to three other Governors appointed by the Board, one of whom must be a Common Council Governor
- City of London Corporation Programme Manager, or their representative.

Quorum

Given this is a focus group and not a formal sub-committee of the Board, there shall be no quorum, but it is expected that all matters shall be communicated to all Focus Group Members.

The Focus Group shall convene in person, or be consulted on matters relating to the Masterplan and associated projects by email.

Terms of Reference

The Focus Group shall have no decision-making powers. Instead it will act as a sounding board for officers engaged in the delivery of the City of London School Masterplan and associated projects, and will report to the Board any issues that its Members believe require consideration.