

Committee(s): Policy and Resources Committee	Date: 18 November 2021
Subject: City of London Academies Trust Board of Trustees: Appointment of Sponsor Trustee	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1d; 3b-d; 8a,d; 10e
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£0
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision

Summary

The Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for appointing two Trustees to the City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT) in accordance with the Sponsor Trustees' Appointment Policy set by the Court of Common Council in January 2016 and amended in October 2017.

One of the Policy and Resources Committee's two appointees has stepped down as a Trustee and there is now a need to appoint a Sponsor Trustee to this vacancy. Following discussions with the Chair of CoLAT as to the Trust's current needs and requirements, Common Councillor Ben Murphy has been identified as a suitable candidate and his appointment is proposed.

Recommendation

The Policy and Resources Committee is asked to consider the appointment of Common Councillor Ben Murphy as a Sponsor Trustee of the City of London Academies Trust Board of Trustees for a four-year term commencing 18 November 2021.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Academies Trust oversees six secondary academies, three primary academies and one sixth form centre in London and seeks to deliver outstanding educational outcomes for young people. The Trust also works closely with the maintained primary school and three independent schools supported by the City of London Corporation.
2. The Trust is overseen by a Board of Trustees, which has ultimate legal accountability for the educational outcomes of the Trust's schools and sets the Trust's strategy, financial management, and regulatory compliance. This is

supported by the work of a Standards & Accountability Committee and a Finance Audit & Risk Committee, whose memberships are drawn from the Board of Trustees.

3. The Articles of Association of the City of London Academies Trust specify under Article 50 that, as Sponsor, the City of London Corporation may appoint up to six individuals to serve as Sponsor Trustees on the City of London Academies Trust Board of Trustees, having due regard to the need for the Board of Trustees to have a balance of skills and experience and to appoint suitably qualified individuals who support the purposes of the Academy Trust and can commit the time necessary to fulfil the role of Trustee. The Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for appointing two of these Sponsor Trustees to the City of London Academies Trust in accordance with the Sponsor Trustees' Appointment Policy set by the Court of Common Council in January 2016 and amended in October 2017.

Current Position and Proposal

4. One of the Policy and Resources Committee's existing appointees, Deputy Edward Lord, stood down as a Trustee from at the end of July 2021 and there is a need to appoint a Sponsor Trustee to the vacancy which arises as a consequence.
5. On behalf of CoLAT, the Chair has made recommendations in respect of the skills and expertise which the Trust would welcome in any prospective appointment.
6. An expression of interest having been made by Common Councilman Benjamin Murphy, the Chair has indicated that CoLAT would be supportive of his appointment and would welcome the skills and expertise he would bring to bear.
7. Information relating to Mr Murphy's experience can be viewed at **Appendix A**. The Committee is invited to consider his appointment to the outstanding vacancy for a Sponsor Trustee on the Board of Trustees accordingly.

Conclusion

8. A vacancy having arisen, your Committee is asked to consider the appointment of Ben Murphy to serve on the CoLAT Board of Trustees.

Appendices

- Appendix A: Expression of Interest – Benjamin Murphy

Expression of Interest in the role of Sponsor Trustee

Benjamin Murphy is passionate about the need for high-quality life-long learning opportunities for all and is particularly driven to empower school leadership teams to become outwardly facing, self-analysing and flexible to adapt to future change initiatives.

He was appointed as a Community Governor by Essex County Council in 2002, at the age of 18. He initially served on an Infants School board and developed a plan to merge the school with a local junior school to create a single primary on a new, state-of-the-art school site. After the success of the project, he was appointed to an underperforming secondary school, where he later became Chair of Governors. To ensure the school had capacity to evidence effective action to Ofsted, Ben led a TOM and Governance Review, resulting in restructuring of both the governing body and the senior and middle leadership teams. He saw the successful completion of a 15-year plan to build a new school fit of the 21st century with associated name change and re-branding, the creation of a Sixth Form consortium and he managed a successful academy conversion in a new trust of schools alongside the Church of England and the Department for Education. He also took the school into positive budget position; achieved a fully staffed school and left with a considerable waiting list of admissions.

As Investment Bank COO at UBS, Ben has supported the UK entity's charitable ambition to enhance education in East London. He has worked closely with the Bridge Academy in Hackney fostering the ambition to build a continuous programme which gives students, staff and UBS employees opportunities to work and learn together. This 'Outstanding' partnership has transformed the outcomes for countless young lives from deeply deprived backgrounds and continues to be a template for other City firms and philanthropic investors in how to have an impact in closing the gaps for pupil premium students.

Ben has also been a vocal member of the Education Board of the City of London Corporation for the past 3 years.