

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Education Board	24 June 2014
Subject: Governor Appointments to City Academy Hackney, City of London Academy Southwark and Prior Weston Primary School	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision

Summary

The Education Board is asked to consider issues relating to the appointment of governors at the City Academy Hackney (CAH), the City of London Academy Southwark (COLAS) and Prior Weston Primary School in Islington (PWPS), namely:

- The composition and appointment of City of London Corporation Governors at the CAH
- The proposed appointment of Nigel Challis CC as governor at CAH
- The proposed appointment of Simon Atkinson and Lucas Green as Governors at COLAS
- The appointment of a community governor to the PWPS

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Endorse the proposed arrangement whereby the five City of London Corporation Governors at CAH be composed of at least one member of the Court of Common Council, and any four additional members
- Subject to the above, recommend to the Court of Common Council that it approve the appointment of Nigel Challis CC as Governor at CAH
- Grant delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to submit candidates for the fifth governor vacancy at CAH to the Court of Common Council for appointment
- Recommend to the Court of Common Council the appointment of Simon Atkinson and Lucas Green as Governors of COLAS
- Grant delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to submit candidates for the governor vacancy at PWPS to the Court of Common Council for appointment

Main Report

Background

1. **City Academy, Hackney – Composition of Governors**

The City of London Corporation has to date appointed four governors to the Board of Governors of the City Academy, Hackney. When appointment of governors to both the City Academy, Hackney and the City of London Academy Islington was formalised by the Court of Common Council in July 2008 it was envisaged that the four City governors would be composed of two members of the Court of Common Council and two persons who were not members of the Court, but who had particular skills and experience that would be of benefit to the Board.

2. However due to an unforeseen vacancy, Nigel Challis CC was appointed as third governor (with the approval of the Community and Children's Services Committee) on an interim basis to the Board at City Academy, Hackney in November 2013. This has meant that the City governors have been composed of three members of the Court plus one external member, thus contravening the envisaged 50:50 split of members of the Court and non-Court members with requisite skills and experience.
3. Nevertheless this interim arrangement has proved a success and both the co-sponsor KPMG and the wider Board of the City Academy, Hackney are keen to confirm the appointment of Nigel Challis CC as the City's third governor on the Board to ensure his skills and expertise are retained.
4. Given this *de facto* arrangement, the opportunity exists to reconsider the composition of the City's nominated governors and to potentially introduce a more flexible arrangement.

5. **City Academy, Hackney – Appointment of Governors**

As noted above, both the Board of Governors and the co-sponsor KPMG are keen to have the interim appointment of Nigel Challis CC approved for a full term to ensure his skills and expertise are retained and a skills audit of preferred skills and expertise has been conducted.

6. The Education Board is also asked to note that there is now a vacancy for a fifth City-appointed governor due to recent expansion. It is proposed that the appointment to this vacancy is conducted via delegated authority procedure to ensure the governor is in place for the start of the academic year.

7. **City of London Academy Southwark – Appointment of Governors**

Following the resignation of an existing City of London-appointed governor and its recent expansion into a Multi Academy Trust with Redriff Primary School, there exists two vacancies for City-appointed governors at COLAS.

8. The Chairman of Board of Governors has identified two suitable candidates for appointment to these vacancies. The first of these is Simon Atkinson, the Deputy Chief Executive of Ipsos MORI, an organisation that has close links to the Academy. The second nominee is Lucas Green, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of Redriff Primary School.

9. *Simon Atkinson's supporting information is as follows: 'Simon Atkinson is the Assistant Chief Executive at Ipsos MORI. He has responsibility for the company's human resources, marketing & communications and quality & compliance teams. He has more than 20 years' experience of research, working with clients across the public and private sectors. Simon has particular expertise in local government, political polling, customer engagement and employee research. His roles within the company have included Partner at MORI, Head of Political Research, Acting Head of Human Resources, Managing Director of Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute and Managing Director of Ipsos MORI Loyalty. He currently sits on the Management Committee of the British Polling Council and has been co-editor of the Political Communications General Election book series since 2001. Simon is a judge for the Management Consultancies Association Annual Awards and a blogger for the Huffington Post. Prior to joining Ipsos MORI in 1990, Simon graduated from Cambridge University with a first class degree in Social & Political Sciences. Outside work, Simon likes cycling, skiing and Oxford United.'*
10. *Lucas Green's supporting information is as follows: 'I have lived in the London Borough of Southwark since 1999 after I graduated with an Upper Second Class degree in Modern History from Balliol College, Oxford. Before that I attended the Perse School in Cambridge where I was lucky enough to receive an Assisted Place Scholarship. My professional career is in television production. In 1999 I won a rare place on a Graduate Trainee Scheme and soon became a producer of popular entertainment programmes, working for all major British channels. I have produced shows for Graham Norton and Ant & Dec in the UK and New York and in 2011, I set up my own company, Superhero Television. By 2013 Superhero was the sixth largest supplier of content to Channel 4, turning an immediate profit in the company's first three years. I Executive Produce all our output, which has included award-winning programmes across many genres. Outside media I am passionate about working with the local community and within education in particular. I joined the Governing Body of Redriff Primary School in 2004 and became Chair in 2008. In 2011 we were judged by Ofsted to be 'Outstanding' and in the same year we also opened a new Children's Centre. In September 2012 we became one of the first local Primary Schools to make the transition to Academy status, which we feel was a big success. Our main projects in 2013/14 have been to work more closely with COLA, consider expansion of our premises and roll, and prepare for Ofsted with a view to maintaining our 'Outstanding' status. During this period we have also established five Redriff values, which are at the heart of everything we do. They are: 'Aspirational, Adventurous, Enlightened, Individual and Compassionate'. I am extremely proud to be associated with the school and its positive learning environment created by the Head and his team. I attend regular Governor training and work closely with the Senior Leadership Team to challenge progress and outcomes. I take a keen interest in Literacy and Performing Arts and am the Special Educational Needs Link Governor as well as Chairing the Head's Annual Performance Management Review. I have a good relationship with the Head, staff and other Governors and take an active and progressive approach to school improvement. In my spare time I am a keen footballer and have run five marathons. I grew up on a small farm in East Anglia and believe that*

growing up around trees and green spaces have an enormous impact on our emotional intelligence and wellbeing.'

11. Prior Weston Primary School

The City of London Corporation has the opportunity to nominate a community governor to the Board of Governors of Prior Weston Primary School in Islington.

12. Two-thirds of the City children who attend maintained schools are educated at Prior Weston. The school is currently rated as 'Good' by Ofsted, and in this context the successful governor will want to consider how this can be built upon to ensure Prior Weston students can match the achievements of their counterparts at the City's one maintained primary school, Sir John Cass. Moreover, given the close proximity of Prior Weston to the learning opportunities in the City of London, a City governor will ideally be able to support the school's ability to take advantage of these opportunities to best effect.
13. Similarly, the Governor's Handbook, published by the Department of Education, provides guidance on the typical inputs expected of school governors, such as the ability to contribute to improvement plans and budget data and provide critique of established practices and ways of working.
14. As with the appointment of a fifth governor to the City Academy Hackney it is proposed that the appointment of the City's governor on the Board of Governors at Prior Weston be carried out under delegated authority procedure to ensure the governor is in place for the start of the academic year.

Proposals

15. City Academy, Hackney – Composition of Governors

- It is recommended that the Education Board support the establishment of a 1:4 Composition of City of London Corporation nominees to the Board of Governors. This would ensure that the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors would be a Court of Common Council member. This member would be joined by a combination of four other governors who were either Court of Common Council members or external members chosen on the basis of their skills and expertise.

16. City Academy, Hackney – Appointment of Governors

- Subject to the above, it is recommended that the Education Board endorse the appointment of Nigel Challis CC to a full term as governor subject to the agreement of the Court of Common Council.
- It is recommended that the Education Board grant delegated authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the appointment of the fifth governor vacancy at CAH.

17. City of London Academy Southwark

- It is recommended that the Education endorse the two appointments recommended by the Chairman of the Board of Governors to the Court of Common Council.

18. Prior Weston Primary School

- It is recommended that the Education Board grant delegated authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the appointment of the governor to PWPS.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

19. The appointment of school governors is in line with the City's strategic aim set out in the Corporate Plan 2013-17 to provide valued services to London and the nation.
20. The appointment of school governors supports the strategic objectives set out within the City of London Corporation's Education Strategy 2013-15.
21. The selection of governors based upon identified skills, expertise and experience is in line with the stated priorities of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services & Skills, who has drawn attention to the fact that each Ofsted Section 5 Report now contains a section on the quality of governance.

Conclusion

22. This report outlines recommended courses of action concerning the composition and appointment of governors to the City Academy Hackney, City of London Academy Southwark and the Prior Weston Primary School.

Appendices

- None

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