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| <b>Committee(s)</b>  | <b>Dated:</b>       |
| Education Board  | 9 November 2017     |
| <b>Subject:</b><br>City of London Academies Trust (04504128) governor appointments | <b>Public</b>       |
| <b>Report of:</b><br>Director of Community and Children's Services                 | <b>For Decision</b> |
| <b>Report author:</b><br>Jeanne Barnard  |                     |

### Summary

This report asks Members to approve the appointment of Roy Blackwell as Chairman of the City of London Academy Highgate Hill Local Governing Body (LGB), with his term commencing in January 2018, and in so doing to note that this will require a variation to the Terms of Reference of that LGB to increase the membership by one additional Governor in this case. Members are also asked to note the current membership of the City's schools governing bodies in Appendix 1.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Approve the appointment of Roy Blackwell as Chairman of the City of London Academy Highgate Hill Local Governing Body.
- Note that in approving the appointment of Roy Blackwell as Chairman of the Highgate Hill 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 current membership of the City Corporation's schools' governing bodies in **Appendix 1**.

### 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 presented to the Education Board on 12 January 2017 (the City being consulted in accordance with the Sponsorship Agreement agreed between the City Corporation and the Trust on 31 May 2016).
2. Further to the terms of that Sponsorship Agreement, the Education Board approved the appointment of Chairmen to these local governing bodies at their meeting on 20 July 2017, and were otherwise content with the other governor appointments made as reported at that meeting and on 14 September 2017. At that time, no Chairman for Highgate Hill had been appointed.

## **Current Position**

3. The Trust Board appointed Roy Blackwell as Chairman of the Highgate Hill local governing body (in consultation with the Education Board Chairman), subject to the consent of the City which is now being formally sought at this meeting. Roy Blackwell has been a Member of the Education Board since June 2014. He is also the Clerk to the United Westminster Schools/Grey Coat Hospital Foundation, and is Clerk to the governing bodies that make up the Foundation, which is a mixture of independent and state schools. Mr Blackwell has extensive experience in the education sector, starting his career as a teacher and spending ten years in the civil service. He is a Liveryman and Couth Assistant to the Worshipful Company of Educators. His extensive education and governance experience will be invaluable, and his understanding of the City Corporation and its ethos will support Highgate Hill as it establishes itself as a City of London academy.
4. The appointment of Roy Blackwell as Chairman means the local governing body of Highgate Hill will have more governors than prescribed by the Trust local governing body ToR, the LGB retaining membership of the previous school's governing body (as it was). Having regard to the particular circumstances relating to the opening of Highgate Hill school, as reported previously to this Board, and the need for strong leadership on the local governing body, the skills offered by Roy Blackwell were considered to justify a departure from the agreed policy (to allow for an additional appointment by the 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.

## **Current membership of City Corporation schools' governing bodies**

5. Tables setting out the school governors for each school associated with the City Corporation are attached at Appendix 1.

## **Conclusion**

6. Members are asked to approve Roy Blackwell's appointment as Chairman of the City of London Academy Highgate Hill Local Governing Body, and to note the departure from the standard LGB membership in this case. Members are also asked to note the current membership of each governing body for the City's family of schools.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Governing body membership of City Corporation schools

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