

Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board	9 November 2017
Subject: SGOSS Funding proposal and proposed changes to the City Corporation's nomination to SGOSS's Board of Trustees and company membership	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision
Report author: Jeanne Barnard	

Summary

This report asks Members to agree the sum of £24,340 from City's Cash to fund SGOSS to create e-learning modules for school governors to promote employability initiatives within schools, and to provide guidelines for a Link Governor for employability to encourage take up of that initiative. This report also asks Members to consider whether it supports an elected Member serving on the Education Board to be nominated by the City Corporation to serve on the SGOSS Board of Trustees (and their consequent appointment as a member of that company), which nomination would be subject to the approval of the Policy and Resources Committee upon the recommendation of the Outside Bodies (Policy and Resources) Sub-Committee.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Agree to fund SGOSS to the sum of £24,340 from City's Cash to promote governor led employability initiatives within schools in London per its proposal at **Appendix 1**.
- Agree to recommend to the Outside Bodies Sub-Committee, should SGOSS formally offer a right of nomination to the City Corporation, that the nominee should be an elected Member currently serving on the Education Board, whose nomination would require the approval of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Main Report

Background

1. School Governors' One-Stop Shop, now trading as Governors for Schools (Co No 03879854) (Charity No 1078330) ("SGOSS") is a governor placement service and sources governors from the business sector to serve on the local governing bodies of schools. Since it was established in 1999, it has placed over 3000 governors.
2. The City Corporation was closely involved in establishing and funding SGOSS through the Economic Development Office (EDO), Town Clerk's Department, and the Policy and Resources Committee. The City Corporation has no direct rights of nomination or appointment to the company's membership or Board of Trustees. However, reflective of the City Corporation's support, we have, since 1999, been invited to nominate one person to serve on the Board of Trustees. This has always been an officer from EDO. (All Trustees/Directors are also

members of the company.) Therefore, the City Corporation also has no rights to remove the person it has nominated, and it is a personal appointment.

Current Position

3. Due to changes in EDO's strategy, they will no longer be funding SGOSS and the current EDO officer who is representing the City Corporation on its Board of Trustees resigned in October 2017. EDO's funding ended at the end of the 2016/17 financial year.
4. Since 2016 the City Corporation has, through the Education Board, begun using SGOSS' governor placement services, which are free of charge, and will continue to do so in future. It is also working on a project to provide guidance for governors on how to increase employability of students at their schools.
5. In addition to the City Corporation's continued use of SGOSS services, SGOSS would like to continue working with the City Corporation on a strategic level. There are two strands to this proposed on-going relationship. The first being at a governance level with continued City Corporation representation on the SGOSS Board of Trustees (and consequent membership to that company of that nominated individual). The second strand would be continued project funding from the City Corporation to SGOSS (which would be considered by the Education Board on a case-by-case basis).

SGOSS funding proposal

6. SGOSS has submitted a funding proposal to the Education Board which is attached as **Appendix 1**. The proposal asks the Education Board to fund the creation of high quality e-learning modules covering the subject of employability, as well as the establishment of a Link Governor for Employability across London schools. This will build on SGOSS' existing e-learning modules which governors within the City's family of schools all have access to.
7. This project aligns with Objective 3 of the Education Strategy, Employability. It specifically aligns with, and will help deliver, the Education Strategy Action Plan outcomes: Ensuring that governors are up to date with the latest statutory requirements and good practice, and that work-related activity in schools are overseen by a dedicated governor.
8. Officers recommend that Members approve the funding proposal. The funding would come out of the 2018/19 Education Board budget (City's Cash), under the Employability Strand of the budget allocated for Strategic Partnership Activities. This would be subject to the 2018/19 annual Education Board budget being approved.

City Corporation representation on the SGOSS Board of Trustees

9. SGOSS has confirmed it would like to continue the strategic relationship with the City Corporation by continuing to offer the City the opportunity to nominate an individual with the appropriate skills to serve on the SGOSS Board of Trustees/Directors (and who would also be appointed as a member of that company). In initial discussions between SGOSS and the Chairman of the Education Board, SGOSS has said they would support the appointment of an elected Member. SGOSS has also indicated the Education Board Chairman would provide valuable governance experience to the SGOSS Board, as well as insight into the education sector from the City Corporation's perspective.

10. Policy and Resources Committee will exercise any nomination rights offered by SGOSS to the City Corporation upon the recommendation of its Outside Bodies Sub-Committee and, in this case, the Education Board. As the appointment will be made by the SGOSS Board and will be personal to the individual appointed, it is considered preferable, and consistent with the views expressed by the Outside Bodies Sub-Committee, that the City's nominee should be an elected Member rather than an employed officer.
11. It is noted, however, should the Education Board Chairman or any other member of the Education Board be appointed to SGOSS in due course, the individual would need to manage any conflicts of interest which may arise, both in considering business presented to the Education Board (e.g. in relation to the governor placement services which the Board has agreed to procure from SGOSS on behalf of the City Corporation, or any other funding decision), and when considering SGOSS business as a SGOSS Trustee/Director which may give rise to a conflict of interest in accordance with that company's own corporate governance framework. Members are referred to the Outside Bodies Protocol which provides guidance to those persons nominated or appointed by the City Corporation to serve on outside bodies.

Conclusion

12. Members are asked to agree to fund SGOSS per its proposal in Appendix 1, to create e-learning modules supporting a focus on employability in schools across London. The report also asked Members to indicate whether they support an elected Member serving on the Education Board representing the City Corporation on the SGOSS Trust Board in the future, subject to the approval of Policy and Resources Committee upon the recommendation of its Outside Bodies Sub-Committee.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – SGOSS funding proposal

Jeanne Barnard

Education Policy Officer

T: 020 7332 1864

E: jeanne.barnard@cityoflondon.gov.uk