

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	19 SEPTEMBER 2023
Report Title:	APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT
Responsible Officer:	DAWN DAVIES PRINCIPAL OFFICER – BUSINESS STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	THERE IS NO EFFECT UPON THE POLICY FRAMEWORK OR PROCEDURE RULES.
Executive Summary:	<p>ALL GOVERNING BODIES OF MAINTAINED SCHOOLS, INCLUDING MAINTAINED NURSERY SCHOOLS, IN WALES MUST BE CONSTITUTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (WALES) REGULATIONS 2005.</p> <p>ALL SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES HAVE FOUR COMPULSORY GROUPS OF GOVERNORS. ONE OF THESE GROUPS IS LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS. LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS ARE APPOINTED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.</p> <p>THIS REPORT DETAILS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO CURRENT LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR VACANCIES.</p>

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet for the appointment of local authority governors to the school governing bodies listed at paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2.

2. Background

- 2.1 In accordance with the Council's 'Guidance on the appointment of local education authority governors', approved by Cabinet on 14 October 2008, officers have considered applications received for current vacancies for local authority governor positions on school governing bodies (see paragraphs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and Appendix A).

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 For the 15 current local authority governor vacancies at the 15 schools in the table below, the applicants met the approved criteria for appointment as a local authority governor and there was no competition for the vacancy. Therefore, the recommended appointments are as follows:

Name of applicant	School
Mrs Marlene Thomas	Betws/Blaengarw Federation
Mr Alexander Still	Brackla Primary School
Ms Denise Roberts	Corneli Primary School
Mrs Stacey Golden	Garth Primary School
Mrs Sarah Murphy	Mynydd Cynffig Primary School
Mr Fadhel Abedalkarim	Plasnewydd Primary School
Mr Malcolm John	St Robert's Roman Catholic Primary School
Mrs Julie Jenkins	Tremains Primary School
Mrs Elizabeth Blake	West Park Primary School
Mrs Cheryl Green	Bryntirion Comprehensive School
Cllr Heather Griffiths	Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen
Mr Adrian Roberts-Walsh	Cynffig Comprehensive School
Mr William White	Maesteg School
Mrs Cheryl Board	Pencoed Comprehensive School
Mrs Amanda Atkinson	Porthcawl Comprehensive School

- 3.2 There was competition for two vacancies at one school and the applicants are detailed in the table below:

Name of applicant	School
Mr James Hall	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr
Mrs Carys Johnson	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr
Mrs Helen Lowcock-James	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr

- 3.3 The officer panel scrutinised the information provided in accordance with the aforementioned approved guidance. Officers noted that none of the applicants are currently elected ward members or elected councillors. Two of the applicants have not previously been school governors. Information provided by applicants on the areas of specific knowledge, experience and skills was fully considered.
- 3.4 The officer panel recommends the reappointment of Mrs Lowcock-James due to her experience as a local authority governor and a serving vice chair of a governing body, and her attendance record for governing body meetings in the last two years. The panel also recommends the appointment of Mrs Carys Johnson given her role as an education professional at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, and her experience of the secondary school sector is considered to be transferrable to a primary setting.

3.5 Officers welcomed Mr Hall's application and although his appointment to either of the vacancies at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr is not recommended at this time, officers would welcome an application for an alternative, vacant, local authority governor position.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1. An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 A Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment has been completed. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

Long-term

While it is desirable for local authority governors to have previous or relevant experience of the role, in the short-term, the local authority may support any person for such an appointment who is interested in supporting schools, is not disqualified from being a school governor and is willing and able to dedicate the necessary time to the role.

Prevention

The local authority assesses the suitability of applicants for the local authority governor vacancy/vacancies applied for. The local authority, in conjunction with the Central South Consortium, supports governors with a comprehensive programme of both mandatory and voluntary training and access to resources, to enable them to develop and maintain their knowledge and skills, and be successful in fulfilling the role.

Integration

School governing bodies have a strategic role in running schools and ensuring that all pupils are supported to learn and achieve so that they can access opportunities for further learning and employment, know how to maintain their well-being, can play active roles in their communities and can contribute positively to society as a whole.

Collaboration

School governing bodies have a strategic role in ensuring that schools safeguard the health and well-being of pupils and staff. The local authority, in conjunction with the Central South Consortium, provides training to governors to enable them to develop and maintain their relevant knowledge, skills and effectiveness in this respect.

Involvement

The local authority treats all applications for local authority governor vacancies fairly, to ensure equality of opportunity. School governing bodies have a strategic role in ensuring that schools safeguard the health and well-being of pupils and staff. The local authority, in conjunction with the Central South Consortium, provides training to governors to enable them to develop and maintain their relevant knowledge, skills and effectiveness in this respect.

5.2 A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the council's new seven well-being objectives, is as follows:

1 A County Borough where we protect our most vulnerable

School governing bodies and, therefore, those appointed to serve as governors on governing bodies, have important responsibilities towards vulnerable children. The local authority, in conjunction with the Central South Consortium, provides training to governors to enable them to develop and maintain their relevant knowledge, skills and effectiveness in this respect.

2 A County Borough with fair work, skilled, high-quality jobs and thriving towns

Access to good education and ensuring children have equal opportunities to realise their potential are critical to helping young people acquire the knowledge and skills they need for work. School governing bodies and, therefore, those appointed to serve as governors on governing bodies, have a strategic role in the running of a school, deciding what the school should achieve, and setting the strategic framework for getting there.

3 A County Borough with thriving valleys communities

Access to good education, raising standards of achievement and ensuring children have equal opportunities to realise their potential, wherever they may reside, are critical to helping young people acquire the knowledge and skills they need for work. School governing bodies and, therefore, those appointed to serve as governors on governing bodies, have a strategic role in the running of a school, deciding what the school should achieve, and setting the strategic framework for getting there.

4 A County Borough where we help people meet their potential

As school governing bodies have a strategic role in the running of a school, this includes ensuring that children and young people have access to good education and equal opportunities to realise their potential, and that our schools are safe, supportive environments providing high quality teaching.

5 A County Borough that is responding to the climate and nature emergency

School governing bodies and, therefore, those appointed to serve as governors, have a shared responsibility for ensuring that teaching and learning encompasses sustainability and global citizenship.

6 A County Borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community

School governing bodies and, therefore, those appointed to serve as governors, have a role in ensuring that there is engagement with pupils and the community served by the school, listening to views and taking appropriate actions. School governing bodies have a responsibility to support supporting diversity and inclusion, and addressing discrimination.

7 A County Borough where we support people to live healthy and happy lives

School governing bodies and, therefore, those appointed to serve as governors on governing bodies, have a shared responsibility for ensuring that teaching and learning encompasses healthy eating and physical activity, personal and social development, self-worth and well-being.

6. Climate change implications

6.1 School governing bodies and, therefore, those appointed to serve as governors on governing bodies, have a shared responsibility for ensuring that teaching and learning encompasses sustainable development and global citizenship. Governing bodies also have a strategic role in considering the impact of net zero carbon and how to deliver this important national initiative.

7. Safeguarding and corporate parent implications

7.1 School governing bodies and, therefore, those appointed to serve as governors on governing bodies, have important responsibilities towards vulnerable children. The local authority, in conjunction with the Central South Consortium, provides training to governors to enable them to develop and maintain their relevant knowledge, skills and effectiveness in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable children and young people.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the appointments detailed at paragraphs 3.1 and 3.4.

Background documents

None

Appendix A

The following table represents current and future local authority governor vacancies (up to the end of December 2023) subject to the approval of the recommended appointments in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.4.

Name of school	Number of current and future vacancies	Latest date for submission of an application
Betws/Blaengarw Primary Federation	3 (vacant from 2 September 2023)	22 September 2023
Brynmenyn Primary School	2 (vacant from 20 November 2023)	21 October 2023
Bryntirion Infant School	1 (current)	22 September 2023
Caerau Primary School	1 (current)	22 September 2023
Cefn Glas Infant School	1 (vacant from 20 November 2023)	21 October 2023
Corneli Primary School	1 (current) 1 (vacant from 20 November 2023)	22 September 2023 21 October 2023
Coychurch (Llangrallo) Primary School	1 (current)	22 September 2023
Croesty Primary School	1 (current)	22 September 2023
Ffaldau Primary School	2 (current)	22 September 2023
Litchard Primary School	2 (current)	22 September 2023
Llangewydd Junior School	2 (current)	22 September 2023
Maes yr Haul Primary School	2 (current)	22 September 2023
Mynydd Cynffig Primary School	1 (current)	22 September 2023
Nantffyllon Primary School	1 (current)	22 September 2023
Nottage Primary School	3 (current)	22 September 2023
Pencoed Primary School	1 (vacant from 18 September 2023)	22 September 2023
Penybont Primary School	1 (current)	22 September 2023
Pîl Primary School	1 (current)	22 September 2023
Plasnewydd Primary School	1 (vacant from 20 November 2023)	21 October 2023
Porthcawl Primary School	1 (current)	22 September 2023

St Robert's Roman Catholic Primary School	1 (current)	22 September 2023
Trelales Primary School	1 (vacant from 18 September 2023)	22 September 2023
Tremains Primary School	1 (current)	22 September 2023
Tynyrheol Primary School	2 (current)	22 September 2023
Ysgol Bryn Castell	1 (current)	22 September 2023
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd	1 (current)	22 September 2023
Bryntirion Comprehensive School	1 (current)	22 September 2023
Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	2 (current)	22 September 2023
Cynffig Comprehensive School	1 (current)	22 September 2023
Maesteg School	1 (current) 1 (vacant from 16 September 2023)	22 September 2023
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	2 (current)	22 September 2023