

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 19th June 2025

Title: Appointment of Parent Governor representatives

Report authorised by: Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Lead Officer: Philip Slawther, Principal Scrutiny Officer, 020 8489 2957
philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/ Non Key Decision: N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 The report seeks formal approval of the appointment of two Parent Governor representatives as voting co-opted members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee when educational matters are being considered and appointment to the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel which has responsibility for considering educational matters,.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Camilla Borthwick-Fox and Christine Cordon be appointed as voting co-opted members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, participating at meetings when educational matters are being considered.
- 3.2 That Camilla Borthwick-Fox and Christine Cordon be appointed to the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel as Panel Members which has responsibility for considering educational matters

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 There are a number of different models used by Councils for how Overview and Scrutiny works. Committees often shadow Cabinet portfolios or corporate priorities of Councils. Many Councils have an overarching co-ordinating committee, with scrutiny panels reporting to it. This is the model currently used in Haringey.
- 4.2 Parent Governor representative are required to be appointed as members to all scrutiny committees responsible for education matters. This means that in Haringey they are members of both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel. The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel specifically includes education within its terms of reference, but its recommendations need to be approved by the Overview and

Scrutiny Committee. As this gives the Committee ultimate responsibility for scrutiny of education issues, Parent Governor Representatives also need to be listed as members of it. In light of the focus on Budget Monitoring by the Overview and Scrutiny, the Parent Governors would only be required to attend meetings where there are educational matters for decision – making such as reviews from the Children and Young People's Panel and Call in of decisions relating to educational matters or strategic and cross cutting issues, which may include consideration of education matters

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001 require parent governor representatives to be elected to serve on education overview and scrutiny committees. Therefore, no alternatives were considered.

6. Background information

- 6.1 Parent Governor representatives (PGRs) were introduced in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 so that parents of children at schools had an apolitical voice on local education matters. Although elected by parent governors, the role of Parent Governor representatives is to represent parents and not governors.
- 6.2 The Act provided for;“local authority education committees or sub-committees to include one or more elected representatives of parent governors at maintained schools in relation to which the committee or sub committee acts.”
- 6.3 This was changed under the Local Government Act 2000 to reflect the new political arrangements that were introduced for local authorities in England. Those operating the new ‘executive arrangements’ were required to appoint at least two but not more than five parent governor representatives to each of their education overview and scrutiny committees. Haringey has decided that there should be two Parent Governor representatives appointed to its scrutiny committees and this is reflected under Paragraph 4.1 of Part 4, Section G of the Council’s constitution: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Review Panel whose terms of reference relate to education functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet, shall include in its membership the following representatives:
- (i) At least one Church of England diocesan representative (voting).
 - (ii) At least one Roman Catholic diocesan representative (voting).
 - (iii) 2 parent governor representatives (voting).
- 6.4 These voting representatives will be entitled to attend a meeting and vote where the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Scrutiny Review Panel is considering matters that relate to relevant education functions. If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Review Panel is dealing with other matters, these representatives shall not vote on those matters though they may stay in the meeting and speak at the discretion of the Chair.

- 6.5.1 The statutory education co-optees will also be invited to attend the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings, when it is considering an agenda item relating to education matters as set out at paragraph 4.2 and will be provided with support and briefings to participate in these meetings when required by Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team. They will attend the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel which has responsibility for educational matters.
- 6.5.2 Within the current structure of scrutiny in Haringey, there is one overarching Overview and Scrutiny Committee and four advisory panels, these being:
- Adults and Health
 - Children and Young People
 - Culture, Community Safety & Environment
 - Housing, Planning & Development
- 6.6 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee consists of 5 non executive members.
- 6.7 Scrutiny panels are chaired by a Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The membership of each panel consists of between 3 and 7 non executive members and is politically proportional as far as possible. The membership of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel also includes the statutory education representatives and also has a non-voting co-opted Members who is a representative from a Haringey SEND parent/carer forum.
- 6.8 The terms of reference/arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny are set out in Part 2 (Article 6), Part 3 (Section B) and Part 4 (Section G) of the Council's Constitution. Further information can be found via the link below:
- <https://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=873&MId=7972&info=1&MD=Constitution>
- 6.9 By bringing a educational expertise and adding a different perspective to the business of the panel, non voting co-optees are expected to add value to scrutiny by performing the following roles:
- To bring specialist knowledge and/or skills to the Overview and Scrutiny process and to bring an element of external challenge by representing maintained schools.
 - To act in a non party political manner
 - To establish good relations with members, officers and co-optees.
 - To abide by the relevant sections of the Council's Constitution in terms of the rules and procedures for Overview and Scrutiny.

6.10 It is expected that statutory education co-optees will:

- Attend formal meetings of the Panel, which are usually held in the evening.
- Attend additional meetings and evidence gathering sessions such as site visits.
- Prepare for meetings by reading the agenda papers and additional information to familiarise themselves with the issues being scrutinised.
- Prior to meetings consider questions they may wish to put to Cabinet Members, officers and external witnesses.
- Help the Panel to make practical suggestions for improvements to services.
- Assist in the preparation of reports and the formulation of recommendations.
- Contribute to the development of the annual work programme.
- Keep abreast of key issues for the authority and bear these in mind when scrutinising services and making recommendations for improvement.

6.11 In March and April 2025, nominations were sought from all eligible parent governors. Two nominations were received, so no formal election is required. The people nominated were: Camilla Borthwick-Fox, Parent Governor at Ferry Lane Primary School; and Christine Cordon, Parent Governor at North Harringay Primary.

7 Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

Finance

7.1 Statutory Education Representatives are entitled to an allowance of £154 per meeting, upto a maximum of £616.

Legal

7.2 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report. Part 4 Section G (4.1) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

7.3 The Parent Governor representatives is entitled to vote on recommendations considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on educational matters and will participate at the Panel where there specifically related to education matters. Therefore, the Parent Governor representatives is bound by the Council's Code of Conduct (in Part 5 Section A of the Constitution) that includes the registration and declaration of interest. However, the co-optee is also required to comply with

relevant parts of the General Obligations of the Code (in Paragraph 3) when attending the meetings and conducting the business of the Panel.

Equality

- 7.4 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:
- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 7.5 The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.
- 7.6 Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

8 Use of Appendices

None.

9 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Local Government Act 2000 (LGA 2000)