



Report of the Chief Executive of Education Leeds

Member Management Committee

Date: 15 July 2009

Subject: Local Authority Appointments To The Governing Body of South Leeds Partnership Academy

Electoral Wards Affected:

**Beeston and Holbeck
City and Hunslet
Middleton Park**

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek nominations for local authority appointed governors to the South Leeds Partnership Academy Governing Body, Old Run Road, Leeds, which is due to open in September 2009

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Academies are established and managed by independent sponsors and funded by the Government at a level comparable to other local schools. They are not maintained by the local authority, but they are set up with its consent and collaborate closely with it and with other schools in the area.
- 2.2 Any new academy must ensure that it effectively engages with its local community and it is essential that it should build on existing local partnerships across schools, with colleges and other providers. An academy must also be an all inclusive school and arrangements for admission must comply with admissions law and the national code of practice.
- 2.3 Academies are expected to have the backing of their local authority and close collaboration is required between the local authority and sponsor. In relation to governance, the constitution of an academy is determined through the funding agreement between the DCSF and the sponsor, and there must be a minimum of one seat and a maximum of two for the local authority. Where close collaboration exists, and to support the local authority's strategic planning and commissioning role, agreement can be reached to secure two places on an academy governing body.
- 2.4 In order to formalise this collaboration, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the local authority and the academy sponsor has been established with the approval of Leeds City Council Executive Board (January 2009).

2.5 The purpose of the MoU is to set out the matters agreed between the prospective Sponsor of an Academy and Leeds City Council which merit specific mention and to inform the formation of a framework for the development of academies in Leeds. The provisions and requirements of the MoU are expected to be incorporated into any Expression of Interest by the Sponsor and the Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State which establish an Academy, so far as such provision is not already made in that Agreement.

3.0 MAIN ISSUES

3.1 The memorandum of understanding states: "...To demonstrate this commitment to working in partnership as part of the wider community of Leeds the sponsor of a new Academy in Leeds must agree that Leeds City Council can nominate two governors to the governing body of the Academy, one representing the Council Ward from which the majority of students will be drawn, and one representing the Council Administration."

3.2 In this instance the students are drawn in roughly equal numbers from the wards, Beeston and Holbeck, City and Hunslet, and Middleton Park

3.3 The South Leeds Partnership Academy sponsored by School Partnership Trust opens in September 2009. The sponsor is ready to establish the governing body for the academy and has requested nominees from the local authority.

3.4 The Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules state that where a request to make an appointment is received then determination of this will be based on one or more of the following criteria being met:

- the proposed appointment is a statutory requirement;
- the proposed appointment would be consistent with the Council's policy or strategic objectives; and/or
- the proposed appointment would add value to the Council's activities.

3.5 Where an organisation is deemed to have met one or more of these criteria, Members are requested to allocate it to one of the following categories:

- Strategic and Key Partnerships – participation contributes to the Council's strategic objectives and community leadership role
- Community and Local Engagement – not necessary to fulfil strategic or key partnership role but, nonetheless, beneficial in terms of leading, engaging and supporting the community from an area or ward perspective.

3.6 The appointing body for Strategic and Key Partnerships is the Member Management Committee. The appointing body for Community and Local Engagement is the appropriate Area Committee.

3.7 Members are asked to consider whether appointments should be made to this body and to agree that such appointments would fall into the Strategic and Key Partnerships category.

3.8 Members are requested to note that the Executive Member for Learning has requested that he be consulted when the nomination/appointment for the Council administration post is considered.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

4.1 The member appointments referred to in 3.3 to 3.6 are in accordance with the Council's Constitution and as detailed in the Appointments to Outside Body Procedure Rules. Members will also be advised of the need to update their entry in the Members register of interests.

5.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no specific legal or resource implications in relation to this appointment.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Members are asked to nominate to the governing body of South Leeds Partnership Academy:

- a representative from the Council Administration.
- a single representative from one of the Council Wards from which the majority of students will be drawn, namely Beeston and Holbeck, City and Hunslet, and Middleton Park.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Developing and Responding to New Governance Arrangements for Schools in Leeds – Report to Executive Board, January 2009

7.2 Future Secondary Provision Proposal for South Leeds High School – Report to Executive Board, December 2008