

Meeting:	Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date:	20 January 2004
Subject:	Scrutiny Review of Recruitment and Retention of School Governors
Responsible Chief Officer:	Director of Learning and Community Development
Status:	Part I
Ward:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix A - Report of the Review Group

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This report presents the report of the scrutiny review group on the recruitment and retention of school governors.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 **That the report be noted and the recommendations endorsed and referred to the Education and Lifelong Learning Portfolio Holder and the Publications Advisory Panel as appropriate.**

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors**

- 3.1 None

4. **Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)**

- 4.1 A review of the recruitment and retention of school governors is included within the Sub-Committee's work programme for 2003-04.

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1 The review supports the corporate priority of promoting Harrow as a centre of lifelong learning.

6. **Consultation**

- 6.1 The Association of Harrow Governing Bodies, individual school governors, Harrow Racial Equality Council and other Local Authorities all contributed to this review.

7. **Finance Observations**

- 7.1 There are costs attached to implementing the recommendations specifically items 6.6 and 6.7 as set out in the report. In particular additional officer time would be required to co-ordinate the provision of additional information and support to Governors. The costs of implementing the recommendations cannot be contained within existing resources.
- 7.2 As set out in the LEA Budget, Schools Budget and Individual Schools Budget Regulations 2003 funds can only be held within the LEA Budget for, “ Expenditure on the appointment of governors, the making of instruments of government, the payment of expenses to which governors are entitled and which are not payable from a school’s budget share and the provision of information to governors.

8. **Legal Observations**

- 8.1 Section 19 of The Education Act 2002 requires that all maintained schools shall have a governing body. The conduct of that maintained school shall be under the direction of the governing body, section 21. The recruitment and retention of school governors is therefore effective to the proper conduct of schools.

9. **Conclusion**

- 9.1 Governors make an enormous voluntary contribution to the management of LEA schools, often investing considerable time into this work. This valuable work is often unrecognised and there is scope for the LEA to proactively develop a positive profile for the Governors’ role. There was good overall support available to governors although this could be developed further.

10. **Background Papers**

- 10.1 Papers considered by the Review Group

11. **Author**

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