

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	17 February 2004
Subject:	Reference to Cabinet from Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Key decision:	No
Responsible Chief Officer:	Executive Director (People First)
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Stephenson
Status:	Public
Ward:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix A - Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee 'Review of Recruitment and Retention of Governors' Appendix B – Reference from the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee

1. **Summary/ Reason for urgency (if applicable)**

- 1.1 Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee agreed their recommendations at the meeting of 20 January 2004. In addition the sub-committee referred its recommendations to Cabinet.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 **Cabinet is requested to consider the recommendations and the resultant funding implications of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

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

- 4.1. Not applicable.

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1. Recruitment and retention of governors in order that membership of school governing bodies is both complete and representative of the local community is a contributory element of the commitment to high quality Lifelong Learning.

6. Background Information and options considered

- 6.1. Members of Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee considered issues affecting the recruitment and retention of school governors as part of the scrutiny process. In particular, the review group addressed the issue of what might be done to ensure that the constitution of school governing bodies across the LEA might better represent the diverse ethnic mix of the local population.
- 6.2. Information gathered, principally from a public evidence-gathering meeting, was considered alongside data provided by officers.
- 6.3. The key findings in section 4 of the sub-committee report set out a range of issues and possible solutions identified by governors, schools and members. A number of these have already been implemented, for example, the Governor Support unit now collects ethnicity data from all new governors as part of the induction process.
- 6.4. The report sets out a number of recommendations in section 5 that it wishes to refer direct to Cabinet. All the recommendations might well contribute to the enhanced recruitment and retention of governors. A number of these recommendations have resource implications, particularly those associated with on-going support to governors that require officer time for which there is currently no budget.

7. Consultation

- 7.1. The Sub-Committee report sets out (Section 2) the consultation process that informed the recommendations.

8. Finance Observations

- 8.1. Financial implications are set out in the covering report attached (Section 7). Officers estimate that the full cost of implementing the recommendations is in the region of £20,000 per annum. There is no provision for this within the Medium Term Revenue Budget Strategy.

9. Legal Observations

- 9.1. None.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1. The recommendations set out in the Sub-Committee report (Section 6) will enhance the work of Governor Services with regard to recruitment and retention of governors.
- 10.2. Other issues raised during the evidence gathering process will also be implemented, e.g. collection of ethnicity data of governors, as part of the regular work of Governor Services.

11. Background Papers

- 11.1. None.

12. Author

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