

19 STATUTORY MEMBERS AND CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES ON EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report By: County Secretary and Solicitor

Wards Affected

None.

Purpose

1. To review the statutory membership and co-opted representation on the Education Scrutiny Committee.

Background

2. The first meeting of the new Committee, following the local elections, provides the opportunity to reconsider the position regarding the statutory and co-opted representation on the Committee.
3. The Education Committee on 20th January 1998 decided that:
 - as required by statute representatives of the Church of England and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities be formally co-opted to serve on the Committee as voting members;
 - following a secret ballot that three non voting teacher representatives, one from the secondary sector, one from the primary sector and one from the special education sector be appointed;
 - nominations be invited for 1 representative of the Head Teachers from primary and special schools and 1 representative of Head Teachers in secondary schools;
 - The County Association of School Governors be invited to nominate one governor representative who should be both a serving school governor and a parent of a school age child in the Herefordshire LEA.
4. The requirement to revise the Council's political structure in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 introduced an Education Scrutiny Committee and Education Programme Panel to replace the Education Committee. Arising from that it was decided that Head Teachers would serve on the Education Programme Panel providing policy advice to the Cabinet Member (Education). There would be Diocesan representation on both the Panel and the Scrutiny Committee with the remaining representatives serving on the Education Scrutiny Committee.
5. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Education (Parent Governor Representatives) Regulations 1999 required local education authorities to have parent governor representatives as full members on Scrutiny Committees with voting

rights. The Council decided that 3 Parent Governor representatives be appointed, following a ballot of eligible governors, with a 4 year term of office commencing 1st May 2000.

Existing membership and term

6. Following the local government elections, the Council on 23rd May, 2003 decided to increase the number of councillors on the Education Scrutiny Committee from 8 to 10.
7. The Statutory members, with voting rights, and their term of office, where appropriate, on the Committee are:

Diocesan Members

Church of England - Reverend M. Smith – appointed September 2001
Roman Catholic Church – Mr J. D. Griffin – appointed Feb. 2003.

Parent Governors

Primary Schools – Mr. M .Burgess – elected 9.4.02 for 4 years
Secondary Schools – Mrs S.E. Wright – elected 1.5.00 for 4 years
Special Schools – vacancy

8. One point to note is that there is no term of office specified for Diocesan members. Whilst it is a matter for the Diocesan Authorities to determine their representation it is suggested that following Council elections Diocesan Authorities be requested to confirm their appointments
9. The non-voting representatives co-opted at the discretion of the Committee are:

Primary School Teachers - Mr J.D. Pritchard - elected Mar 2001.
Secondary School Teachers – Mr C. Lewandowski - elected April 1998.
Special School Teachers - Vacancy.
10. No term of office was specified for the teacher representatives. The representatives were appointed following a ballot of teachers in the relevant sector. In reviewing representation as a whole it may therefore be appropriate to review this issue.

Current vacancies

11. The member for the **Parent Governor - Special School sector** became ineligible to serve as a governor. The Council's Governor Services section have attempted to obtain a nomination from this sector but have so far been unsuccessful. The sector has a limited number of eligible parent governors. It is anticipated that a number of new governors will be appointed in this sector in the Autumn of 2003 when further efforts will be made to fill this vacancy.
12. In an attempt to fill the vacancy for a **Co-opted Special School Teachers representative** nominations were invited on two occasions with no interest being shown. The sector has a limited number of eligible teachers. Since then interest has been shown by a headteacher at a special school. However, at that time the policy was that headteachers were represented on the Education Programme Panel.

13. The Council has relaxed the arrangements for co-option onto the Education Scrutiny Committee. It is therefore open to the Committee to consider whether, given difficulty in filling this place, it wishes to provide for special schools to be represented by either a teacher or headteacher. Alternatively it may wish to consider moving to one teacher representing both primary and special sectors, mirroring former arrangements on the Programme Panel, as referred to below.

Headteacher representatives

14. Following the decision by Council on 23rd May, 2003, the authority no longer has an Education Programme Panel. The Panel included one representative from:

The Church of England.

The Roman Catholic Church.

A Secondary School Head Teacher - nominated by the Association of Head Teachers.

A Primary/Special School Head Teacher - nominated by the Association of Head Teachers.

15. Both the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church Dioceses are already represented as voting members of this Committee. It is suggested that it would now be appropriate for Headteachers also to be represented, given that the Programme Panel will not be continuing.
16. The Committee may wish to take into account that co-option is only one means of engaging partners and there may be times when other methods would be more appropriate, for example in-depth investigations and time limited investigative review groups.

RECOMMENDATION

- THAT (a) the Committee consider whether it wishes to set a term of office for the non-voting co-opted representatives;**
- (b) the view of the Committee is sought on the filling of the vacancy for a Co-opted Special School teacher representative**
- (c) Headteacher representation previously provided for within the Programme Panel should be approved; and**
- (d) Diocesan Authorities be requested to confirm their appointments to this Committee.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.