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**Report to**  
Council

30<sup>th</sup> June, 2008

**Report of**  
Director of Customer and Workforce Services

**Title**  
Appointments to Outside Bodies – Trust School Governing Bodies

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**1 Purpose of the Report**

To nominate an elected member as the City Council's nominee as trustee/company director to each of the five proposed trust schools.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the City Council nominates five Elected Members to act as trustee/company director on the trust of each of the five proposed trust schools (Barrs Hill School, Lyng Hall School, Stoke Park School, The Westwood School and Whitley Abbey School), ie one Councillor for each school trust, for the period until the Annual Meeting of the City Council in May 2009.

**3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2008, Cabinet agreed that nominations to position of Trustee/Company Director of each of the five Trust Schools that are the subject of current proposals in the City should take the form of an appointment to an outside body. The nominated Councillor will then seek nomination from their Trust to be the Trust Foundation Governor on the school's Governing Body whenever possible. The Cabinet Member (Children, Learning and Young People) will appoint Local Authority Governors to the five Governing Bodies.
- 3.2 Trust Schools are part of the Government's vision 'for creating a more diverse education sector offering excellence and choice'. The objective is to strengthen the leadership and ethos of schools by enabling them to form long term sustainable partnership with charitable trusts with the aim of bringing in experience and expertise as a vehicle to raise standards and further develop existing partnership arrangements.
- 3.3 The trusts are the foundations of Trust Schools. The statutory purpose of a foundation in this context is to hold land on trust and it may appoint foundation governors where the schools instrument of government allows, as in voluntary aided schools. Trusts set up under these arrangements must have particular characteristics including the charitable purpose of advancing education and a duty to promote community cohesion in furthering that purpose.

3.4 The City Council will be a member of the Trust of each the following five schools which are at varying stages of the statutory process of acquiring trust school status:

- Barr's Hill School
- Lyng Hall School
- Stoke Park School
- The Westwood School
- Whitley Abbey School

As a trust member the City Council will nominate a person to act as Trustee/Director of the Trust. That person may also be nominated by the relevant trust as a foundation governor of the school where the instrument of government allows.

3.5 All five schools are seeking to establish their Trusts between June and October 2008.

#### 4 Proposal and Other Option(s) to be Considered

It is proposed to nominate five Councillors to act as Trustee/Company Director of Barrs Hill School, Lyng Hall School, Stoke Park School, The Westwood School and Whitley Abbey School for the period until the Annual Meeting of the City Council in May 2009. The Trustees/Company Directors will be re-appointed each year at the Annual Meeting of the City Council.

#### 5 Other specific implications

5.1

	Implications (See below)	No Implications
Best Value		✓
Children and Young People	✓	
Climate Change & Sustainable Development		✓
Comparable Benchmark Data		✓
Corporate Parenting		✓
Coventry Community Plan		✓
Crime and Disorder		✓
Equal Opportunities		✓
Finance		✓
Health and Safety		✓
Human Resources		✓
Human Rights Act		✓
Impact on Partner Organisations		✓
Information and Communications Technology		✓
Legal Implications	✓	
Neighbourhood Management		✓

	<b>Implications (See below)</b>	<b>No Implications</b>
Property Implications		✓
Race Equality Scheme		✓
Risk Management		✓
Trade Union Consultation		✓
Voluntary Sector – The Coventry Compact		✓

### **Children and Young People**

The rationale behind the proposals for trust schools is based on the new partnerships with those outside school education contributing to the educational opportunities for children and young people in the schools. Trust status for these five schools should therefore enhance the experiences of these children and young people. City Council membership of these trusts will allow a contribution both to the decisions of the trust on appropriate activities and to further educational opportunities for the school's students.

### **Legal Implications**

Directors of the charitable trust companies will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the trust with the appropriate professional advice. They must act prudently, lawfully and in accordance with their governing document so as not to incur personal liability and this includes compliance with charity and company law.

## **6 Monitoring**

- 6.1 A process for representatives nominated to outside bodies to report back to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the work of that body is in place. This facilitates an annual review of the continuing value of each appointment to ensure that Council representation on outside bodies delivers mutual benefit and value.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Key Decision</b>		✓
<b>Scrutiny Consideration (if yes, which Scrutiny meeting and date)</b>		✓
<b>Council Consideration (if yes, date of Council meeting)</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2008	

## List of background papers

Proper officer: B Messinger, Director of Customer and Workforce Services

Author: Telephone 024 7683 3080  
Alison Townsend, Senior Committee Officer, Democratic Services  
(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

### Other contributors:

Helen Abraham, Customer and Workforce Services 024 7683 2199  
Gill Carter, Finance and Legal Services 024 7683 3116  
Dave Simpson, Children, Learning and Young People 024 7683 1563  
Ruth Snow, Children, Learning and Young People 024 7683 3632  
Richard Weaver, Children, Learning and Young People 024 7683 3631

Papers open to Public Inspection

### **Description of paper**

### **Location**

Cabinet Report 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 – Membership  
of Trust Schools' and Academies' Trusts and  
Governing Bodies

Council House, Room 59