
Report to
Council

23 February 2010

Report of
Director Children, Learning and Young People

Title
Appointments to Outside Bodies – Foxford School Trust

1 Purpose of the Report

To nominate an Elected Member as the City Council's nominee as trustee/company director to the Foxford School Trust.

2 Recommendation

That the City Council nominates an Elected Member to act as trustee/company director on the Foxford School Trust for the period until the Annual Meeting of the City Council in May 2010 when it will be reviewed along with other appointments to outside bodies.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 At its meeting on 11th March, 2008, Cabinet agreed that nominations to the position of trustee/company director to trust schools in the City should take the form of an appointment to an outside body and as such will be subject to review at the Annual Meeting of Council each year along with all other outside body appointments. The Cabinet Member (Children, Learning and Young People) will continue to appoint local authority governors to governing body of the school.
- 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 Foxford School Trust. As a trust member the City Council will nominate a person to act as a 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 Foxford will be the sixth Coventry secondary school to acquire trust status and it has been the practice with the previous appointments to nominate a Ward Councillor. Foxford School is situated within the Longford ward of the City.
- 3.6 Foxford School are intending to establish their Trusts on 1 March 2010.

4 Proposal and Other Option(s) to be Considered

- 4.1 It is proposed to nominate a Councillor to act as Trustee/Company Director of Foxford School Trust for the period until the Annual Meeting of the City Council in May 2010 and annually review the appointment thereafter.
- 4.2 It is proposed that nominations will be invited during the meeting of Full Council to be held on 23rd February 2010.

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		✓
Property Implications		✓
Race Equality Scheme		✓

	Implications (See below)	No Implications
Risk Management		✓
Trade Union Consultation		✓
Voluntary Sector – The Coventry Compact		✓

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

	Yes	No
Key Decision		✓
Scrutiny Consideration (if yes, which Scrutiny meeting and date)		✓
Council Consideration (if yes, date of Council meeting)	23 February 2010	

List of background papers

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