

Report title: Education Co-opted members	
Report to: People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 14 April 2022	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk.	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report updates on a change to the process for seeking nominations to serve as an Education representative on the Committee which was approved by Full Council in February, as well as new attempts to increase the current representation on the Committee.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to note this report and support the actions to be taken.

3. Background

The law requires us to have external co-opted members as follows:

- One Church of England diocesan representative
- One Roman Catholic diocesan representative
- Between two and five parent governors of maintained schools.

Co-opted education representatives can vote on education matters only. Maintained schools are those which are funded by ECC. Therefore, academies are not maintained schools.

Historically one place has been allocated for a parent governor of a maintained primary school and another place for a parent governor of a maintained secondary school.

In 2020 nominations were invited from both primary and secondary school governors with only nominations received for the former and an appointment to be a primary school representative was made in 2020 (after an election was held). Unfortunately, the person appointed had to subsequently stand down as they no longer met the eligibility requirements. Since then both parent governor seats have been vacant.

Education Co-opted members - update

The increase in the number of academies means that it is now virtually impossible to get a nomination from a maintained secondary school in Essex. Therefore, going forward, the past practice of seeking separate primary and secondary school parent governor representatives no longer seems feasible, appropriate or proportionate.

Within the Council Issues Report presented to Full Council in February 2022 (link to it below under Supporting Documents) was a proposal to change the representation for maintained schools and have two seats for parent governors of maintained schools which are open to any parent governor of a maintained school (i.e. not distinguishing between primary and secondary schools). This was approved and it is thought that this practice would be more likely to result in vacancies being filled as we are likely to receive sufficient nominations. It also aligns to the practice of neighbouring authorities

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 It is proposed to start the process to invite nominations from parent governors at maintained schools in Essex to fill the two vacancies so that new appointees can be in place by the start of the next school academic year at the latest.
- 4.2 In addition, as the place for a Church of England diocesan representative also has been vacant for some time, a further approach will be made to seek a new nomination from the Church of England Diocese.
- 4.3 The Roman Catholic diocesan representative is the only current co-opted Education representative on the Committee although the representative has been unable to attend a meeting for some time. It is proposed to seek confirmation that the current representative is still able to continue their membership or whether we should seek a new nomination from the Roman Catholic diocese.

5. Supporting documents

- 5.1 [Full Council - February 2022 - Council Issues Report \(see page 3\)](#)