

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	16 November 2021
Subject:	Parent Governor Representative		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Children's Social Care		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

The term of office for one of the current Parent Governor Representatives on the Committee is due to expire at the end of November 2021. This report is seeking to formally agree extending the term of office of the Parent Governor Representative concerned.

Recommendation:

That the term of office for the Parent Governor Representative concerned be extended for a period of no more than two years, up to November 2023.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The term of office for the Parent Governor Representative concerned is due to expire at the end of November 2021.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

To allow the Parent Governor Representative concerned to end her term of office at the current time would result in having to invite nominations and a potential ballot for a new Parent Governor Representative. This is not considered to be practical, particularly given the current position with Covid-19. It is also considered that the Parent Governor concerned should be offered the same opportunity to continue in the role as the other Parent Governor was offered in November 2020.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There are no costs associated with the proposal, rather avoiding a potential ballot will negate the possibility of printing costs, together with associated officer time.

(A) Revenue Costs

See above.

(B) Capital Costs

See above.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None	
Legal Implications: The Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001 apply in this case.	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Yes
Have a neutral impact	No
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
Postponing the possibility of an election for a replacement Parent Governor will negate any necessity in printing ballot forms at the current time.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Extending the appointment of the Parent Governor Representative concerned will allow the scrutiny expertise gained by the individual to be retained by the Committee for up to a further two years.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above.
Commission, broker and provide core services: As above.
Place – leadership and influencer: As above.
Drivers of change and reform: As above.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable.

Greater income for social investment: Not applicable.
Cleaner Greener Not applicable.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6602/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4803/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

The Parent Governor Representative concerned has indicated their willingness to continue in their role.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Debbie Campbell
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2254
Email Address:	debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution requires the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) to have two parent governor representatives who have voting rights on the committee on education matters. The Parent Governor Representatives are normally appointed for a two-year term of office.

- 1.2 The term of office for one of the current Parent Governor Representatives is due to expire at the end of November 2021.
- 1.3 A vacancy would require the Council to seek nominations from existing Parent Governors from local maintained schools. In the event of more than one nomination, a ballot would be required.
- 1.4 A similar situation arose in November 2020 with the other Parent Governor Representative. Given the situation with Covid-19, particularly within the Liverpool City Region area, Council officers were reluctant to hold a ballot, which could not be held electronically. Rather, ballots would need to be returned to a Council office in the post. With a few exceptions due to logistical reasons, most Council staff were, and still are, working remotely, and the receipt of postal ballots present logistical difficulties. It could also potentially put both voting Parent Governors and Council staff handling ballots at risk of the virus.

2. Matters for Consideration

- 2.1 The Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001 apply in this case. The Regulations state that the Term of Office shall not be “greater than four years.”
- 2.2 Given that the other Parent Governor Representative was able to continue in her role for a further 2 years, officers consider that it is fair and equitable to offer the same opportunity to the Parent Governor Representative whose term of office is currently due to expire.
- 2.3 The relevant officers have approached the Parent Governor Representative concerned, to ask about the possibility of retaining the services of the individual, and they have indicated a willingness to continue in the role.
- 2.4 Arguably, there is still an element of risk for both Parent Governors and Council staff by potentially holding a postal ballot and officers are keen to mitigate Covid 19 risks, wherever possible.
- 2.5 By continuing in the role, the Committee will retain the expertise and experience of the individual concerned and avoid the risk of a ballot that is arguably non-essential at the current time.