

**DELEGATED DECISION
17 OCTOBER 2019**

REPORT TITLE	<i>APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO SIT ON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL APPEAL PANELS</i>
REPORT OF	<i>DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND ASSURANCE</i>

REPORT SUMMARY

The report advises of the statutory requirement to appoint members to sit on Independent School Admission Appeals.

It invites the Cabinet Member for Children Families and Education to consider an application from a member of the public to sit on Independent School Admission Appeals Panels as a Panel Member.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

This matter is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION

That Brenda Thompson be appointed to the pool of panel members for the Independent School Appeals Panel.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 There appears to be no bar to the applicant sitting as a Panel Member on Panels for Community and Controlled Schools, CE and RC Voluntary Aided Panels or Foundation and Academy Schools.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 When an admission authority refuses a child a place at a particular school, the parent has the right to appeal the decision to an Independent Appeal Panel under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
- 3.2 In respect of Admission Appeals, Schedule 24 of the Act provides that where an Appeal Panel is established by a Local Authority or Academy, under Section 94 or by the LA jointly with one or more school governing bodies, it must consist of a chair and at least two other panel members, appointed by the Clerk to the Panel on behalf of the admission authority from the following categories:-
- a) lay people (someone without personal experience in the management of any school or provision of education in any school (except as a school governor or in another voluntary capacity));
 - b) people who have experience in education, who are acquainted with educational conditions in the local area, or who are parents of registered pupils at school.

3.3 Panel Members

Panel Members are expected to play an active part in the questioning of both the Presenting Officer and the Appellants, showing favour to neither party, avoiding expressing personal opinions during the course of a hearing, or making the case for either party, and being conscious at all times of acting, and being seen to act, independently of the Admission Authority. Having heard all the evidence, the Panel must withdraw to reach a decision as to whether to uphold or reject the appeal.

3.4 Training of Panel Members

Admission Authorities must arrange and fund up-to-date training for Appeal Panel Members, on any aspect felt to be relevant to the functioning of the panel, as described in the School Admission Appeals Code of Practice, and in accordance with the requirement in the Appeals Regulations.

Panel Members must not take part in hearings unless they have received appropriate training.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 Members of the Appeals Panel are entitled to travelling and subsistence allowances and to financial loss allowances if their membership of the Panel leads to a loss of income. There are no staffing implications.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 None.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 No there is no relevance to equality.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There is no impact on emissions of CO2

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

