

Work programme 2006/07

Review of the school governor appointments process

The overview and scrutiny committee recently reviewed a decision taken by the Borough & Bankside community council (B&BCC) in respect of a school governor appointment. OSC's consideration took place in closed session; the open minutes from the meeting are attached.

Whilst committee members agreed that little would be achieved by asking the community council to reconsider its decision, they were still concerned about a number of aspects of the school governor appointment process.

OSC has therefore referred the broader issue of the appointments process to the children's service and education scrutiny sub-committee for further review. OSC highlighted the following five areas to look into as part of the review:

1. The presence of officers from the school governor and legal teams when school governor appointments are considered at community council meetings, and the practicalities and budget considerations around this
2. The advice provided by the education department around a candidate's suitability
3. Putting in place a system for monitoring the performance of governors, and the criteria that should be applied when reappointing a governor
4. Consistency between community councils in terms of the information provided and the approach taken to encouraging diversity as part of the appointment process
5. Whether or not school governor decisions should continue to be taken by community councils, and if so, whether the candidate information could be made anonymous so the decision could be taken in public

Officers will prepare a report for your committee outlining the school governor appointments process in more detail.

This has been provisionally scheduled on your work programme for March 2007.

Carina Kane
Scrutiny Project Manager
November 2006