



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

11 NOVEMBER 2015

Subject Heading:

**APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET
MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & LEARNING
TO THE CORPORATE PARENTING
PANEL (and associated amendment to
the constitution)**

CMT Lead:

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Policy context:

None applicable

Financial summary:

There are no significant financial
implications

**The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council
Objectives**

Havering will be clean and its environment will be cared for	[x]
People will be safe, in their homes and in the community	[x]
Residents will be proud to live in Havering	[x]

SUMMARY

The report before Members seeks agreement to amend the appendix to Article 12 of the Council's Constitution to include the additional special membership requirements of the Corporate Parenting Panel of whom the Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Learning shall be a full member.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee agree that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to insert the following in the appendix to Article 12 of the Council's Constitution:

Committee	Number of Members and any special requirements
Corporate Parenting Panel	All Councillor Members of the Children and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee and the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning.

REPORT DETAIL

- 1 All members of the local authority have a shared responsibility for corporate parenting, but the Cabinet Member has the lead political role in ensuring that children looked after by the local authority have their interests protected, their opportunities maximised, their educational achievement enhanced, their voices heard and care services shaped to meet their needs. This role of the Lead Cabinet Member is enshrined in legislation (Children Act 2004).
- 2 Havering in common with most local authorities also has a Corporate Parenting Panel which is made up elected Members of the Children and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee and does not currently have provision for the Lead Cabinet Member to attend. This is not a statutory requirement but is generally regarded as good practice. When Ofsted inspect they would expect to see a member panel, board or committee with a remit to ensure strong corporate parenting and holding officers to account.
- 3 The Corporate Parenting Panel also has a very similar role to that of the Lead Cabinet Member in respect of Looked After Children. For example our Corporate Parenting Panel receives regular reports of the educational progress of Looked After Children, their views as expressed through Viewpoint and the Children in Care Council and has visited young people in their placements.
- 4 Most Local Authorities reconcile the potential overlap of responsibilities between their Corporate Parenting Panel and their Lead Member by

ensuring the Lead Member attends the Corporate Parenting Panel. Arrangements range from the Lead Member chairing the panel through to attending.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Human resources implications and risks

There are no human resources implications or risks.

Financial implications and risks

There are no financial implications or risks

Legal implications and risks

There are no legal implications or risks

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.