

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



EDUCATION EXECUTIVE

WEST LOTHIAN (PLACING IN SCHOOLS) APPEAL COMMITTEE – RECRUITMENT

REPORT BY HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek agreement from the Education Executive to carry out a recruitment exercise to attract additional members to the West Lothian (Placing in Schools) Appeal Committee prior to the May 2022 Local Government Elections.

B. RECOMMENDATION

1. To seek Education Executive approval of the plan to recruit additional members to the West Lothian (Placing in Schools) Appeal Committee.
2. To note that the final outcome of the recruitment exercise will be reported to the first meeting of West Lothian Council following the May 2022 local government elections.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; Being honest, open and accountable; Providing equality of opportunities; and Making best use of our resources
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Education (Scotland) Act 1980, as amended, and various regulations.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None. There are statutory timescales which officers must adhere to when dealing with placing in schools appeals.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	None.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.

VIII Other consultations None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

The West Lothian (Placing in Schools) Appeal Committee is a statutory body set up under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980. It is independent and is not part of the council's policy-making and decision-making structure. Members can be appointed in one of three categories, as set out below.

Legislation allows for appeal committees to comprise 3, 5 or 7 members. In West Lothian, it has been agreed that the committee should comprise 3 members made up as follows:-

- One member from West Lothian Council or its education committee (who is not permitted to chair a hearing)
- One person with educational experience and who is acquainted with educational conditions in West Lothian (the Chair whenever possible)
- One parent of a child of school age in education at a West Lothian school

Most of the existing committee members were formally appointed for a period of 5 years following the local government elections in 2017. Since then a number of parent committee members had to give up their positions as they no longer had a child of school age in education at a West Lothian school and some of the Chairs decided to stand down. An interim recruitment exercise took place in April 2020 to ensure there was a sufficient number of panel members who could be called upon to hear appeals timeously.

A list of the names of the present committee members are shown in the attached Appendix for members interest.

In view of the forthcoming local government elections in May 2022 and the reduced number of external members on the committee, it is recommended that the Education Executive agrees to a further recruitment campaign.

Notices seeking additional members will be sent to all Head Teachers for sharing with parent councils and information will be published on the council's social media sites. Letters will also be sent to Head Teachers/Depute Head Teachers who have retired in the last 18 months or so.

A list of the successful new applicants will be reported to the first meeting on the new council following the May 2022 elections. Existing members will be invited to intimate whether they wish to remain on the committee and will also be included in that report.

Members will not be permitted to participate in a hearing until they have had a satisfactory disclosure check and they have completed the necessary training.

E. CONCLUSION

The appointment of additional members to the committee will ensure a healthy membership for the committee to deal with the anticipated business in the coming years.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

West Lothian Council, 10th May 2012

Council Executive, 29th May 2012

Education Executive, 12 March 2013

West Lothian Council, 25th May 2017

Education Executive, 23 June 2020

Appendices/Attachments: List of Members of the Committee

Contact Person: Lorraine McGrorty, Committee Officer, 01506 281609,
lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk

Lesley Henderson
Interim Head of Corporate Services

Date of meeting: 18th January 2022

APPENDIX

LIST OF CURRENT MEMBERS ON THE WEST LOTHIAN (PLACING IN SCHOOLS) APPEAL COMMITTEE

Educationally Experience Members (Chairs)

Anne Corr
Paul McLellan
David Simpson
Norma Watson

Parent Members

Victoria Dunnett
Lesley-Ann Gould
Sarah Henley
Lesley Spence

Councillors/Education Appointed Member

Tom Conn
Jim Dickson
David Dodds
Angela Doran-Timson
Damian Doran-Timson
Lawrence Fitzpatrick
Peter Heggie
Charles Kennedy
Andrew Miller
Moir Shemilt
Lynne McEwen