



LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

Annual General Meeting: Tuesday 21 October 2025 at 10:30 am

Venue: Hope School, 251 Hartsbourne Avenue, Liverpool L25 2RY

Present: Michael Morris, David Blythe, Dave Cadwallader, Marlene Taylor, Dave Owens, Michelle Hayward, Maureen McDaid, Richard Lovegrove, Joyce Smith, Sharon Pearson, Dominic Ion.

1. Welcome by M Morris, LGF Chair

MM welcomed those present. All present introduced themselves. It was noted that Marlene Taylor is still a governor at Lawrence Road School and remains a member of LGF.

2. Apologies: Barbara Murray, Peter Devaney, Andy Chadwick, Avril O'Brien, Gareth Jones, Gill O'Donohoe

3. Pecuniary interests

No changes to previous information were declared.

4. Approval of minutes from 2024 AGM held on 22 October 2024.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 October 2024 had already been agreed upon by email and posted on the LGF website.

5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Treasurer's financial report for the academic year 2024/25.

Please see attached. The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that on 31 August 2024 (year-end) the LGF bank balance stood at £8,669.15.

MM reiterated that the allocation of funds had been previously discussed and agreed that they would be used for the provision of additional training for LGF members to assist them in providing support to other governing boards as required and meeting the costs of the LGF Conference provisionally planned for March 2026.

7. Chair's 2024/25 report, including the 2025 Annual Review, followed by any questions or queries.

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no matter arising. MM took the opportunity to thank DB for his efforts in preparing the Annual Review. MM also

thanked all committee members for their continued commitment to LFG and governance in Liverpool especially considering the ongoing academisation of Liverpool schools. MM commented that the academisation programme is challenging as schools become more involved with their Trusts and less loyal to Liverpool noting this is understandable as many Trusts operate outside the city boundary. MM said LGF will continue to encourage schools to be involved with LGF and take advantage of the support LGF offers. DC commented that often MATs discourage schools from being involved with organisations (Headteacher Associations etc.) outside their own MAT. A discussion took place regarding the MATs and the funding for schools planning to academise in the future. It was noted that maintained schools converting to academies, no longer received the previously available £25,000 government grant funding. It was also noted that a minimum of three schools are required to form a new MAT on the same day.

DI expressed a concern that governing boards of MAT schools could lose their independence and ability to challenge decisions in the future.

It was noted that it is the MAT who is ultimately responsible for running of all the schools in their Trust and not the individual school governors which is why some of the responsibilities previously carried out by governing boards in maintained schools are removed from the governors when they join a MAT, e.g., appointing the Headteacher, financial budgets. RL suggested that there should be a representative from the MAT schools on each academy's trust board. MM suggested putting this request to the MAT in writing.

8. Election of officers / Committee Members / Representatives for 2025/26.

It was proposed by DC, seconded by MH, and unanimously agreed that the following members serve as detailed below:

Officers

Chair: Michael Morris, Vice Chair: Maureen McDaid, Honorary Secretary: David Blythe, and Treasurer: Dave Owens.

Committee Members

Dave Cadwallader, Richard Lovegrove, Michelle Hayward, Gareth Jones, Gill Donohoe, Marlene Taylor, Sharon Pearson, Avril O'Brien, Dominic Ion.

Associate Members

Joyce Smith, Daniel Azanuwha, Andy Chadwick, Peter Devaney, Ian Smith, Barbara Murray, Mark Rea, Alex Newton.

(NB: It was noted that Joyce Smith attends regularly but cannot formally act as a committee member as only one representative from each school can sit on the LGF committee.)

LGF Committee representatives

Liverpool Learning Partnership Board (LLP) - LGF Chair: Trustee/Director: Michael Morris.

Liverpool Schools Forum (LSF) - Maureen McDaid, Michelle Hayward, Dave Owens, Gareth Jones, Dominic Ion.

Liverpool Safeguarding Childrens Partnership (LSCP) – Gareth Jones.

SEND Joint Commissioning Board – believed to be no longer active.

Admissions Forum - believed to be no longer active.

LCC Priority 4 Education Improvement Group - believed to be no longer active.

It was noted that the position of Honorary President, previously held by the late Joe Hartley will no longer be filled. This post was created in recognition of the long-term commitment of Joe Hartley in setting up and running LGF for many years.

9. Any other business / Close

No matters were raised.

The meeting concluded at 10:40.