



## LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

**Committee Meeting:** Tuesday 20 May 2025 at 10 am

**Venue:** St Margaret's C of E Academy, Aigburth Road, Liverpool L17 6AB

### 1.0 STANDARD ITEMS:

#### 1.1 Welcome, Apologies:

**Present:** Michael Morris, David Blythe, Dave Cadwallader, Dave Owens, Marlene Taylor, Sharon Pearson, Richard Lovegrove.

**Apologies:** Barbara Murray, Maureen McDaid, Peter Devaney, Andy Chadwick, Michelle Hayward, Avril O'Brien, Karen Holland, Joyce Smith, Gill Donohoe.

#### 1.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No changes to previous information were declared.

#### 1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 March 2025 had already been agreed upon by email and posted on the LGF website.

#### 1.4 Matters Arising

**Neighbouring Governor Forums** – MM undertook to contact Gill Donohoe regarding the contact details for neighbouring governor forums. He is to contact appropriate organisations to invite their representative to attend a future LGF meeting.

*Please note MM contacted our 3 neighbouring governance forums on 21/5/25, as of 3/6/23 he has received no replies.*

Concern was expressed regarding the poor attendance at LGF meetings and the difficulty in recruiting new members. DC was asked if the lack of people prepared to become governors was a national phenomenon. He replied that it did not appear to be so. DC said he felt parents are not valuing education as highly as previously and this has a detrimental effect in their desire to become involved with governance.

DB highlighted Clause 5.9 of the LGF Constitution which states that ‘The Executive Committee may remove any member who, without its consent, does not attend meetings or send apologies, or report on meetings attended as a representative of LGF, for a period of 6 months’. It was suggested that Committee Members could become Associate Members if they found it difficult to attend meetings. PA is to provide MM with information regarding attendance at LGF meeting for the past academic year.

## **2.0 Matters and Events**

### **2.1 Finance**

DO confirmed the bank balance currently stands at £5887.17. Recent expenditure includes invoices received from Rainbow Trust (£200) for training provided at last meeting and P Hartley (£575) for website maintenance. It was noted that expected expenditure includes clerking cost, (£300) to be paid at the end of this term and the monthly service charge on the account of £4.25.

It was noted that the current funds held by LGF is necessary to support the provision of future training and conferences.

It was agreed to maintain the current subscription fee of £25 per school.

### **2.2 Feedback from events** (conferences, AGM etc)

There have been no events since last LGF meeting.

### **2.3 Future events** (Meetings, Venues, Conferences, AGM topics for Governors Digest, Speakers for Committee meetings etc)

**Venues for future LGF Meetings** - A discussion took place regarding venues for future LGF meetings. It was noted that parking is a consideration when choosing a venue.

Although the committee appreciate the regular venues provided by a core group of schools it was felt new venues may encourage governors from the host school to attend the LGF meeting.

LGF pay a fee of £25 to each venue, the same amount as the annual subscription fee.

RL is to enquire if Springwood Heath School could host a future LGF meeting.

**Topics for LGF Conference** – Topics for the LGF Conference to be held in November were discussed. Governors were asked to suggest two topics they felt their individual schools needed support with.

Topics suggested included Finance, Prevent, Curriculum, Interaction with parents, SEND (provision and finance). It was noted that training on Prevent is already provided by SIL and the Government.

DB informed the meeting that he is soon to undertake Finance training provided at Hope School by J Donegan, an independent financial advisor who works with individual schools and the LA. He will provide feedback on the training at the next LGF meeting. It was suggested that ENO Akinyande, LA could be invited to address the conference.

It was noted that Curriculum could only be addressed in general terms but it would prove useful for governors to understand how to support and challenge the curriculum in their individual schools.

MM commented that it would be useful for governors to know what goes on in the classroom as many governors only visit the school when it is empty. DC said SIL had recently provided training on Curriculum but attendance had been disappointing.

DB suggested having 2/3 speakers on different topics at the conference which could allow attendees to choose topics of particular interest. Reducing the time of the conference to 2 hours rather than a whole morning was also suggested.

SP suggested inviting outside providers to independent information (side stalls) at the conference. It was noted that the LGF conference may not be large enough to attract the attention of independent providers.

It was agreed to defer this item to the next LGF agenda.

#### **2.4 Website**

DB reported that the LGF website is currently up to date and asked if LGF needs to review its purpose prior to future updates of the website.

#### **2.5 Twitter Account.**

DC had shared the responses to his recent survey of governors/schools' use of social media as a means of sharing information. The survey had been shared via Governor Hub and had received 163 responses. After analysis, the responses DC reported that WhatsApp stood out as the most popular media used by governors/schools. Followed by Facebook and then Instagram. 87% of those who responded used their smartphones as the means of receiving communications. Only 9% of respondent used X (Twitter) which is currently used by LGF.

DC asked who do LGF wish to communicate with? and noted it is unlikely that governors/schools will set up an account with X solely to receive information from LGF. MM said he felt LGF needed a more generic means of communication.

DC highlighted respondents had concerns about security and the use of personal data.

The questionnaire asked if governors would be prepared to join a dedicated site for governance and 43 % replied positively.

DC stated that currently the most popular way of communicating with governors is via Governor Hub which is used by most schools. However, concern was expressed that Trusts are opting out of this service and may become isolated.

MM commented that the use of X may not be ethical or fit for purpose. It was agreed to defer a decision on LGF's use of X until the next LGF meeting to be held in on 1 July 2025.

DC was thanked for his work in the compilation, distribution, and analysis of the survey.

**2.6 Other** (matters for raising)  
Not applicable

### **3.0 Feedback from Representatives**

#### **3.1 Liverpool School's Forum**

The next meeting is to be held on 9 July 2025. Feedback will be available at the first meeting of the next academic year.

#### **3.2 LLP**

LLP Briefings continue to be sent to Headteachers Associations as well as distributed by DB.

One meeting has been held and a Planning Meeting is to be held on 21 May 2025 to decide the core principle of LLP. It was noted that an interim CEO is still in place.

#### **3.3 LSCP** (Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership)

PA is to contact MMc regarding a draft letter enquiring about the current state of LSCP.

#### **3.4 Other** (other committees, matters for raising etc)

PA is to add S Pearson to the NGA subscription list.

---

#### Next Meetings:

The last meeting for this academic year is: 10 am on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 at St Julie's Catholic High School, Speke Road, Liverpool L25 7TN

<b>SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM MEETING</b>	
Springwood Heath School to be contacted re: future venue for LGF meeting	RL
Feedback on Finance training undertaken at Hope School	JD
LGF Committee Members attendance information to be provided for MM	PA
S Pearson to be added to NGA subscription list	PA
MMc to be contacted re draft letter to LSCP	PA

