LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

Committee Meeting: Tuesday 21 October 2025 at 10:30 am

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

1.0 STANDARD ITEMS:

1.1 Welcome, Apologies:

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

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

1.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest forms were distributed and signed by those present.

No changes to previous information were declared.

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 September 2025 had already been agreed upon by email and posted on the LGF website.

1.4 Matters Arising

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM MEETING	
1. GA to be added to NGA list	PA
2. Headteachers/Clerks to be asked to highlight Governor Hub	DC
3. P Hatton to be approached re LGF representative on LSCP	GJ
4. Clarification regarding committee/boards still in operation	GJ

Update on matters arising:

1. GJ to be added to NGA list. Actioned
2. Governor Hub highlighted to Headteachers/Clerks. Actioned
3. P Hatton to be approached re LGF representative on LSCP – GJ to provide feedback at the next LGF meeting. Noted GJ to sit on the LSCP.
4. Clarification regarding committee/boards still in operation. See AGM minutes. Actioned

2.0 Matters and Events

2.1 Finance

DO confirmed the LGF bank account balance currently stands at £8,574.25.

2.2 Feedback from events (conferences, AGM, etc.)

There have been no events since the last LGF meeting.
The LGF AGM took place 21 October 2025 before the LGF committee meeting. The minutes are to be distributed.

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

Venues for future LGF Committee Meetings

10th February 2026: St Margaret's Academy, Aigburth Road, L17 6AB and
5th May 2026: Corinthian Community Primary School, Inigo Road, L13 6SH
30th June 2026: Venue to be confirmed.
14th March 2026: Provisional date for the proposed Spring Conference. .

Speakers for future meetings

It was suggested inviting representatives from headteacher's associations to a future LGF meetings to give an over view of their organisations.

Topics for the LGF Conference

A discussion took place regarding possible speakers at the LGF Conference to be held in Spring 2026 and future committee meetings.
It was proposed that the subject of the conference is to be on SEND.

It was noted that a Government White Paper on the subject of SEND is to be published in November 2025. *(NB: The government has subsequently announced this will now be delayed until the 2026 new year.)*

The implications of the White Paper could be discussed at the conference. DB suggested this should also be a subject discussed at a LGF committee meeting. It was noted that each Local Authority will have an opportunity to respond to the proposals in the White Paper and how they will impact on the schools in their respective area. It was noted that LA's still retain overall control for SEND, including in MAT schools.

Committee members were asked to consider possible conference invitees and bring their suggestions to the December LGF meeting. MMc commented that it was important to invite as many appropriate people as possible so they could gauge the feelings of Liverpool governors. It was suggested that Joanne Kennedy, the LA Cabinet member for Education and Skills be invited to the conference.

A previous suggestion that separate workshops could be included as part of the conference is to be revisited as there are concerns that attendance could make the workshops untenable.

Committee members were asked to give consideration to topics and speakers for future LGF committee meetings and provide suggestions at the December meeting to allow appropriate arrangements to be made. The White Paper is also to be discussed at a committee meeting once it has been published.

2.4 Website

DB reported that the website is up to date.

2.5 Other (matters for raising)

Stronger links with headteacher's associations suggested by MH. It was noted that LGF already have established links with the Headteachers Associations, including distribution of the LGF Annual Report to them.

It was suggested that representatives from the individual Headteachers Association be invited to attend a future LGF meeting to open the door to closer cooperation.

3.0 Feedback from Representatives

3.1 Liverpool School's Forum

DO reported that a LSF sub-group met recently. The meeting over ran timewise and not all the agenda items were addressed. The items discussed included: Terms of reference, monitoring forms and delegated items (maternity cover, union time, free school meals etc) and historic items such as Pensions. MMc enquired if LSF have designed a form to assess applicants and the impact of their services. DO confirmed that a form for this purpose now exists. It was noted LSF need to effect a 20% reduction in services.

For the benefit of new members an overview of role of the LSF was provided. Central Government provides the overall grant funding for each individual school. However, the LSF 'top slices' some of the grant for specific services.

It was further explained that LSF main committee is made up of many stake holders, union representatives, LA Officers, Headteachers, MATs, Early Years, Governors, etc. Additionally, there is one small sub-group who scrutinise proposals from the LA and make suggestions to the main LSF committee for agreement and final decision.

It was noted that the date of the next LSF meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 26 November 2025.

3.2 LLP

An executive meeting has taken place. No clear plans have been made on its future and it was felt the LLP is at risk.

3.3 LSCP (Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership)

GJ is to provide feedback at next LGF meeting.

It was noted that LSCP is a legal requirement and involves a multi-disciplinary committee to ensure safeguarding across the city, not just in schools.

3.4 Other (other committees, matters for raising etc)

SP highlighted the Catholic Schools Conference which was recently held at the Metropolitan Cathedral. There were two keynote speakers who spoke on Governance and OFSTED. SP said she felt it was a way to thank Governors in Catholic Schools and made governors feel valued. MH stated a similar thing happens in Jewish Schools.

MT reported that the recent parent governor election at her school generated 33 responses resulting in 3 (young) Parent Governor appointments.

Meeting concluded at 11:20.

Future Meetings:

- 2nd December 2025: Springwood Heath Primary School, Danefield Road, L19 4TL.
- 10th February 2026: St Margaret's Academy, Aigburth Road, L17 6AB
- 5th May 2026: Corinthian Community Primary School, Inigo Road, L13 6SH
- 30th June 2026: Venue to be confirmed.
- 14th March 2026: Provisional date for the Spring LGF Conference.