



***PROPOSALS FOR A NEW
MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE***

CONSULTATION PAPER

JANUARY 2008

1. **BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Established in May 1995, Governors Wales supports the effectiveness of the governance of schools in Wales, by informing, guiding and supporting school governors. Since its inception, Governors Wales has delivered a comprehensive range of information and support services to school governors which has developed considerably over the years, some examples include:
- i) a confidential, bilingual telephone helpline service, 7 days a week
 - ii) access to independent legal opinion
 - iii) publications including Fact Files and a handbook for governors of schools in Wales
 - iv) Governors Wales website
 - v) access to two full time Development Officers who provide practical assistance and advice to governing bodies and local governor associations throughout Wales.
- 1.2 In summary, present arrangements of Governors Wales include two general meetings held per year which three governor representatives are entitled to attend from each of the Local Authority areas in Wales. The Management Committee, comprising one nominated representative from each local governor association, fulfils the executive function of Governors Wales.
- 1.3 Based upon recommendations from an independent review and discussions at meetings of the Management Committee and the Constitutional Sub-Committee of Governors Wales, it is now considered both timely and appropriate to review the role of the Management Committee to take Governors Wales forward in the 21st Century, specifically to (i) strengthen its contribution to the practice and improvement of school governance and (ii) devise policy initiatives and the strategies to achieve them.

Views are now sought from local governor associations and other parties on the proposals as outlined below.

2. **THE PROPOSALS**

2.1 **THE BOARD**

The Board will normally meet twice each year, and will:

- a) consist of 44 members, that is 2 per LEA, derived from nominations of Local Associations, or in consultation with LEA Governor Support Officers where no Local Association exists.
- b) act as an Electoral College and elect an Executive at a meeting specified for this purpose. This specification should take account of the most appropriate length of an Executive term of office, e.g. a one-year term or a two-year term.
- c) act as a Scrutiny Committee, to receive and discuss the report of the Executive twice per year.
- d) convey to the Executive, at each meeting, the views of Local Associations or matters of concern to governors, by means of motions and discussion.

3. THE REMIT

3.1 REMIT OF THE BOARD

It is proposed that the Board would be responsible for:

- receiving and discussing reports from the Executive Committee and ratifying accordingly;
- conveying to the Executive Committee the views of local governor associations/fora and matters of concern;
- electing an executive, approving the financial statement, appointing auditors etc., at an Annual General Meeting;
- electing the Officers to the Executive;
- approving the annual budget;
- approving and monitoring the overall policies and strategic plan of Governors Wales.

3.2 REMIT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

It is proposed that the Executive Committee would be responsible for:

- implementing policy and rules of procedure;
- reviewing the effectiveness of Governors Wales to ensure that the aims, objectives and performance indicators are achieved;
- implementing the strategic plan and work plan and submitting reports to the Board for approval;
- considering all relevant reports in relation to the internal operation of Governors Wales and determining accordingly;
- overseeing the annual report, financial statement and interim accounts and monitoring cost effectiveness;
- appointments, staffing, pay and conditions, personnel issues;
- responding to consultations relevant to school governance;
- considering any matters where requested by the Board;
- reviewing and making proposals for any changes to terms of reference/standing orders, etc.

Closing date for return of consultation response form: Wednesday 5th March 2008