

Paper for Council of Governors

Thursday 9 June 2022

Report Title:	Information on the Council of Governor elections: autumn 2022
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Previously considered by:	

Approval
 Discussion
 Information
 Assurance

<p>Executive summary</p> <p>There are three divisions to the COG including staff governors and public governors, which are elected seats. These are then sub divided regionally to represent local membership. For staff there are three governors for the Ipswich regional and three for Colchester. For public governors, there are four seats each for Colchester and Ipswich public members and five seats each for the Rest of Suffolk and the Rest of Essex constituencies.</p> <p>Election requirements are outlined in the Trust's constitution including terms of service, requirements to stand at election and responsibilities included for the role. A Governor may serve a maximum of three terms or a sustained period of nine years, whichever comes first. An individual term is subject to the conditions of the election process agreed prior to the election in the trust constitution.</p> <p>The membership office will recruit an external agency to run the elections to allow for a fair and impartial process. There are no fixed guidelines for the duration of an election. These have to be assessed by the external agency as they will have to take into account the size of the membership, amount of seats vacant, if it is likely to be contested and extenuating factors that may not be considered by the Trust.</p> <p>The general principle is that an optimum time for an election process would exceed twelve weeks. Below are the stages that demonstrate opportunity to nominate, elect and induct new governors elected to the council. The constitution covers several contingencies if an elected governor can no longer carry out their duties and abdicates outside of an election period.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Last Day for Publication of Notice of Election: No other actions may take place before this is done 2. Deadline for receipt of nominations: There will then be a declaration of the nominations of those intending to stand following the closing of the nomination window

3. Publication of Statement of Nominations

4. Deadline for candidate withdrawals: This will be a short window

5. Notice of Poll/Issue of ballot packs: Ballot papers will be distributed to the respective members of their class and constituency

6. Close of Poll: At a specific date and time

7. Count and Declaration of Result: The following twenty four hours

8. Start of term: The newly elected governors will then be given the opportunity to be inducted into their roles before the official start date of their terms

The table below identifies which seats will be vacated on the 31 October and potentially contested at an election during Autumn 2022.

Public member seats				Staff members seats	
Colchester	Rest of Essex	Ipswich	Rest of Suffolk	Colchester and Essex	Ipswich and Suffolk
Vacant*	Barry Wheatcroft*	Margaret Llewellyn*	Helen Rose*	Sharmila Gupta**	Allison Weston*
Caroline Bowden*	David Gronland**	Laurence Collins*	John Alborough*	Pride Mukungurutse*	James Stephens
Allison Ruffell	James Chung	Paul Gaffney*	Philip Davy*	Isaac Ferneyhough	Gemma Bourne
David Guest	Elizabeth Smith	Tim Newton*	Gillian Orves		
	Jane Young		Martin Lewis-Jones		

*Seat to be vacated

**Seat to be vacated – Governor at term limit

Most of the day to day activities and queries from candidates and the membership will be handled by the external election body. In instances where the external agency cannot resolve the matter themselves they will contact the membership office to help resolve the matter. If the membership office is the recipient of the query, then they will re-direct this to the external election body and notify the sender.

After the close of an election the membership office will be notified of the results to the election. It will be the responsibility of either the membership office or the external election body of notifying the candidates the results of the election. During this stage, there will be checks for insolvency and disbarred directors to ascertain that the new governors are classed as fit and proper persons. They will also be asked to make all appropriate declarations of interest to carry out their role appropriately.

If a member or candidate was to request a review of the outcome the membership office would work with the external electoral body to investigate and respond to the requestor and appropriate internal Trust stakeholders.

Action Required of the Board/Committee		
The meeting is asked to: Be informed that the Council of Governors will run an election later in the year and that information will be shared publicly with all members on standing and participating in the voting for public and staff seats on the ESNEFT Council of Governors.		
Link to Strategic Objectives (SO)		Please tick
SO1	Keep people in control of their health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO2	Lead the integration of care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO3	Develop our centres of excellence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO4	Support and develop our staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO4	Drive technology enabled care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Risk Implications for the Trust <i>(including any clinical and financial consequences)</i>		
Trust Risk Appetite		Effective governance and decision making. Internal and external reputation,
Legal and regulatory implications <i>(including links to CQC outcomes, Monitor, inspections, audits, etc)</i>		Well led, and impending well-led review.
Financial Implications		There will be costs involved in the running of an election including the contracting of an external returning officer for the period of an election
Equality and Diversity		These elections play a key part in delivery of our equality and diversity commitments as a Trust, and our transparency.