

Council of Governors (in Public)

Item 13.3

Subject: Governor Elections Update
Date of Meeting: Tuesday 3rd December 2024
Prepared by: Gill Donnelly, Membership & Communications Officer
Presented by: Ben Vinter, Director of Governance & Risk
Purpose of Report: To Receive

1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this paper is to highlight the outcome of the recent Governor elections and other recent changes to the Council of Governors.

Following a communications campaign, the Trust was pleased to fill one out of the two vacant seats on the Council of Governors. The Trust is pleased to welcome Vivienne Carr to the Council of Governors as Public Governor – Cheshire. Vivienne joined the Council of Governors on 1st November 2024 following publication of the Uncontested Report by Civica Election Services (attached 13.3a). The Public Governor seat for the Rest of England & Wales remains vacant.

In addition to this, the Council of Governors are also pleased to welcome Michael Carney as Public Governor – Merseyside on 26th September 2024. Michael was approached as the next highest polling candidate in the most recent election and succeeds David Bromilow who stepped down from the role.

The Council of Governors are requested to note the election of the new Public Governor – Cheshire and recent Public Governor - Merseyside. Following consideration of the options available, as detailed within section 3 of this report, it is recommended to leave the Public Governor – Rest of England & Wales seat vacant until the next round of Governor elections. The process for these is scheduled to commence in May 2025 and all successful candidates from this round of elections will commence a three year term of office immediately after the Annual Members Meeting 2025. The Council of Governors are requested to support this approach.

2. Governor Election Results

Civica Election Services (CES) were appointed to act as the independent electoral administrator for the election process. The elections were held in accordance with the Model Election Rules contained within our Trust Constitution.

Constituency/Class	Elected Governor(s)	Number of Seats	Election Outcome
Public/Cheshire	Vivienne Carr	1	Elected unopposed

Public/Rest of England & Wales	Vacant	1	Seat remains vacant
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Vivienne Carr will undertake a three-year term of office ending at the end of the Annual Members' Meeting in September 2027.

The Uncontested Report (13.3a) is attached for information.

Michael Carney joined the Council of Governors as Public Governor – Merseyside on 26th September 2024. Michael was approached as the next highest polling candidate in the most recent election and succeeds David Bromilow who stepped down from the role. Michael will undertake a three-year term of office ending at the Annual Members' Meeting in September 2027.

3. Next Steps

The former Public Governor – Rest of England & Wales stepped down from the role on 13th October 2023. The remaining term of office for this seat expired at the AMM 2024.

The preferred approach outlined within the Trust constitution (Annex 5 – Additional Provisions – Council of Governors, Paragraph 10.3) to fill this seat would be to follow:

“If the unexpired period of the term of office is less than six months, to leave the seat vacant until the next elections are held.”

It is therefore recommended that the Public Governor – Rest of England & Wales seat be left vacant until the next round of elections. This process will commence in May 2025 and will include 1 additional Public Governor seat and 2 Staff Governor seats. This will also enable all successful candidates from this round of elections to serve a three year term as outlined within the Trust's constitution (Council of Governors – tenure, Paragraph 11.1) as follows:

“A Governor (whether elected or appointed) may hold office for a period of 3 years commencing immediately after the annual members meeting at which their election or appointment, whichever the case may be, is announced.”

Taking this approach will streamline costs, maximise resources and will result in the benefit of a wider communication campaign as a number of seats will be promoted together.

4. Recommendations

The Council of Governors is requested to receive the results from the recent governor elections and support the process to fill the current vacancy, in the next round of elections, commencing spring 2025.