

# National Conference for Employee Governors

The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster  
Tuesday, 14th October 2008

## 21st Century Governors

Being an effective employee governor in the changing educational landscape

*"I want every school to be governed with a strong focus on driving up standards and securing the best outcomes for every child."*

Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families

*"I have been a school governor for several years and it is a position I have found consistently challenging and rewarding. This role, combined with Unilever's support of this governors' network, has given me tremendous pride in the best of the British education system and Unilever as a progressive employer".*

John Ripley – Office of the Group Chief Executive, Unilever plc

## A conference designed to:

- Support employee governors to improve educational performance
- Help employee governors deploy their particular skills more effectively
- Provide genuine insight into the policy landscape
- Help employers to support their employee governors

## Speakers include:

**Ed Balls**, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families

**Bob Wigley**, Deputy Chairman, Business in the Community. Chairman, Europe, Middle East & Africa, Merrill Lynch

**John Dunford OBE**, General Secretary, Association of School and College Leaders

**Mick Brookes**, General Secretary, National Association of Head Teachers

## Who should attend

- Employees who are governors or wish to become governors of schools and colleges
- Directors of corporate responsibility and their programme managers
- HR personnel responsible for the development of staff

In partnership with:



## 21st Century Governors

Governors of schools, 6th form colleges and FE colleges are playing an increasingly critical and demanding role in today's education system. Expected to provide strategic leadership and challenge, governors must not only fulfil their statutory duties, but must also help drive the improvement and culture of their institution.

As schools and colleges develop their independence and their role in the community – and as they prepare their young people for a world of challenge, change and previously undreamt-of opportunity – the expertise and effectiveness of their governing bodies becomes ever more decisive in their success. Governors who bring both business skills and an understanding of the world of work are particularly valued for the impact they can have; but there is a shortage of 'employee governors', particularly in schools in deprived areas.

**Employers are becoming increasingly engaged in the wider education system: designing qualifications; supporting curriculum delivery; even sponsoring new institutions. Companies have long encouraged their employees to become governors as part of their corporate responsibility programmes, whilst also recognising the benefit those activities bring back to the organisation. There is both a need and an opportunity for employers to take a more proactive approach to encouraging their staff to volunteer as governors; and helping them to shape their institutions and make a genuine difference to young people's lives.**

The educational landscape is changing quite fundamentally: new powers for local government; different types of collaborative partnership; better integrated services; a changing workforce; new curricula and qualifications; an expanding role for schools; above all, a focus on the five 'Every Child Matters' outcomes. A major review of governing bodies, chaired by the Schools Minister, Jim Knight, is due to report in the autumn.

At the same time, BITC has commissioned a study of school governance and the role of employee governors. The findings of the study will be presented at this conference, together with the results of a schools-and-business mapping pilot and a public-attitude survey.

This important conference is the first designed specifically for 'employee governors'. It builds on the highly successful Unilever Governors' Network, which, for more than 12 years has been supporting its employees through information, advice and knowledge sharing.

## Agenda

Facilitated by: **Brian Stevens**, Director, FEoS Consultancy

- 9.30 Registration and coffee
- 10.00 Introduction  
**Brian Stevens**
- 10.10 Welcome to the conference  
**Stephen Howard**, Chief Executive, BITC
- 10.20 Why school governance matters: how employers and their employees can help  
**Bob Wigley**, Deputy Chairman, BITC; Chairman, Europe, Middle East & Africa, Merrill Lynch  
Supporting the effective employee governor – research findings from Bath University  
School-business mapping and public perceptions – Ordnance Survey & YouGov  
Open Discussion
- 11.30 Coffee break
- 12.00 Supporting governors  
**The National Governors' Association**  
**The School Governors' One-Stop Shop**  
Open Discussion
- 13.00 Lunch
- 13.45 Priorities and plans for schools and their governors  
**Ed Balls**, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families  
Open Discussion
- 14.45 Leadership for success in our schools and colleges and the role of governors  
**John Dunford OBE**, General Secretary, Association of School and College Leaders  
**Mick Brookes**, General Secretary, National Association of Head Teachers  
Open Discussion
- 16.00 Concluding remarks: Future development of the employee governors network  
**Brian Stevens** and **Anne Evans OBE**, Chief Executive, HTI
- 16.30 Tea and depart

Presentations will be for no more than 30 minutes

Electronic voting will be used throughout the conference

### Through interactive sessions, participants will be able to:

- Question key players on government priorities and the review of governing bodies;
- Hear a report on the latest research into the role of employee governors and how they can be better supported;
- Learn what they can do to make their institution more successful in achieving the Every Child Matters outcomes;
- Share experience with other employee governors and help design future events and services tailored to their needs

### The conference will see the publication of a University of Bath study of school governance, commissioned by Business in the Community. The report will provide insight into:

- What lessons can be learned from different principles and models of governance in a range of governance settings
- The current state of school governance
- What companies are doing to help their employees serve as governors
- What contribution employees can make and are making to school governance
- Barriers that obstruct further employer and employee engagement
- Options for ways of working to meet changing educational demands and to help remove any barriers to effective employer and employee engagement that have been identified
- Ways in which companies can arrange and manage their employee-governor programmes to achieve the highest degree of effectiveness and the greatest benefits to employers, employees, schools and students.

## The Organisers

FEoS, BiTC, and HTI each work in different ways with the business sector to help companies support education more effectively, including by encouraging staff to serve as governors.



FEoS Consultancy works with its Business Forum of over fifty national and multi-national companies to promote skills and learning for all individuals throughout a lifetime of learning.



HTI, (Heads, Teachers and Industry) is an independent, social enterprise working in partnership with education, business and government to enhance leadership in education for the employability and future of young people. Through the HTI Leadership Centre, we deliver Government contracted training and development programmes as well as our own tailored solutions to educational leaders. Through the HTI Trust, we inform and influence on employability issues in education.

Business in the

Community

Business in the Community mobilises business for good. The organisation inspires, engages, supports and challenges companies on responsible business, working through four areas: Marketplace, Workplace, Environment and Community. With more than 850 companies in membership, Business in the Community represents 1 in 5 of the UK private sector workforce and convenes a network of global partners. These members commit to integrating responsible business, sharing experience and taking collaborative action. This is achieved through campaigns, programmes, awards, benchmarks and publications.



Unilever has been supporting school governors for over a decade. Many of our employees in the UK volunteer as governors of schools. Together they have become an impressive body of people who share their considerable knowledge of being school governors at both regional and national conferences, which enables them to consider and discuss major issues of policy at a national level that impact on their role as governors. Unilever is proud to recognise their contribution to the the community and to support them in their work.

Research sponsored by:



**FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS DERINGER**

## The benefits of supporting employee governors

Being a governor brings considerable benefits both to the individual and to the organisation that employs and supports them:

- They are working at the hub of the community served by the school, 6th form college or FE college;
- They gain a detailed insight into the working of one of the nation's foremost services – education;
- They become acutely aware of the knowledge and skills they have developed, and which are further reinforced by working in a very different context;
- They influence the way that young people are supported to develop the very skills that their employers seek;
- They gain immense personal satisfaction and motivation, as well as wider respect for their employer.

## Terms and Conditions

- 1 No bookings can be accepted unless the full amount/purchase order for the full amount or a non-refundable deposit of £75.00 plus VAT (£88.13) per person accompanies the booking form.
- 2 The balance must be received at least four weeks before the event.
- 3 In the event of a cancellation, if notice reaches HTI in writing (fax: 024 7641 5984 or email: [c.collingham@hti.org.uk](mailto:c.collingham@hti.org.uk)):
  - more than four weeks before the event (Friday, 19 September), your deposit is non-refundable
  - between two and four weeks before the event a 50% refund will be made on the full fee
  - less than two weeks before the event (Friday, 26 September), no refund will be made. Substitutes will be accepted.
- 4 FULL PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE THE EVENT TO SECURE YOUR BOOKING.

Full joining instructions will be sent to registered participants four weeks in advance. If you have not received these details a week before the event, please telephone Caroline Collingham on: 024 7669 8519 or email: [c.collingham@hti.org.uk](mailto:c.collingham@hti.org.uk)

## Booking Form

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS and return to:  
Caroline Collingham, Events Executive, HTI, Herald Court,  
University of Warwick Science Park, Coventry CV4 7EZ.  
Email: c.collingham@hti.org.uk Tel: 024 7669 8519 Fax: 024 7641 5984

Alternatively you can register online at [www.governors-conference.com](http://www.governors-conference.com)

### Fees:

☐ Standard fee: £ 395 per participant plus VAT (£ 464.13)

Multiple bookings:

☐ 5-9 places: £ 375 per participant plus VAT (£ 440.63)

☐ 10+ places: £ 355.50 per participant plus VAT (£ 417.71)

### Exhibitors:

☐ An Exhibition will be a feature of the conference. Please tick here if you would like details of display opportunities available: £ 850 plus VAT (£ 998.75)

Please book me a place/places on the National Employee Governors Conference 2008:

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other: .....

Last Name: ..... First Name: .....

Position: .....

Organisation: .....

Address: .....

.....

..... Postcode: .....

Tel: ..... Fax: .....

Email: .....

Special/Dietary Requirements: .....

.....

### Additional Participant

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other: .....

Last Name: ..... First Name: .....

Position: .....

**NB. For any further additional bookings please photocopy this form**

## Payment Details:

☐ Please send me a VAT invoice.

☐ Purchase Order No. ....

☐ Please find attached full payment or a deposit of £75.00 plus VAT (£88.13) to secure booking.

Total amount: £ .....

***(Cheques should be made payable to 'HTI Leadership Centre' and sent to the address below)***

Authorised Signature: .....

Date: .....

☐ I have read and accept the booking conditions.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE SIGNED THIS BOOKING FORM AS THIS CONFIRMS YOUR CONTRACT WITH US.

### Data Protection Act

Please note that the information supplied on this form may be stored on our computer records for data processing purposes. We are registered under the Data Protection Act (1998)