



Chairman's Welcome

I want to extend a warm welcome to our members on the introduction of the Governing Bodies Association's first issue of an E-Newsletter, *GBA News*.

It is planned that *GBA News* will be published initially on a bi-monthly basis starting with this September issue, as we enter a new academic year. Its purpose is manifold – to highlight the many activities undertaken by GBA on behalf of member schools; to inform member schools of significant new developments, whether they be from academic, government or other sources; to provide a vehicle to improve communication between the GBA and member schools; and to offer member schools a platform on which to share ideas and best practice, to the benefit of all.

The challenges for our schools at the beginning of this new academic year remain formidable, not least the current crisis in education funding, the ongoing absence of

political leadership at Stormont and the impact of teachers' industrial action on day to day operations, to name but a few.

Should a member school have an idea or article they would like to be considered for inclusion in a future newsletter, do not hesitate to get in touch with our Director, Nuala O'Neill, at nuala@gbani.org. Your input will be welcomed!

Please pass GBA News onto your Boards of Governors and school senior management teams. I hope that you will find this and future editions helpful, interesting and informative, and wish all our member schools every possible success in the year ahead.

Ian Noad
Chairman



Area Planning

The GBA participates fully in all the Area Planning Structures which are outlined below.

Area Planning Steering Group (APSG)

Role

- Report on planning and implementation activity in the EA Area Planning Districts and sectors.
- Consider planning and implementation issues at the strategic level and provide advice to DE.

GBA Representative: Nuala O'Neill

Email: nuala@gbani.org

Area Planning Working Group (APWG)

Role

- Monitor the progress of the implementation and revisions of Area Plans processes, identify obstacles and, where possible, develop solutions to remove them.
- Agree a consistent approach to the planning process which will apply across all the Area Planning districts. Identify and bring to the APWG policy gaps and misalignments.
- Take account of the views of sectoral bodies on cross district issues.

GBA Representative: Finbarr McCallion

Email: fmccallion@hotmail.com

Area Planning Local Groups (APLG)

Role

- Prepare reviews of existing Area Plans (primary and post primary) and input to the development of new Special Education Area Plans being developed by the EA under a separate initiative – as required by agreed arrangements and/or DE guidance.
- Prepare Annual Action Plans and implementation schedules for its Area Planning district as required by agreed arrangements and/or DE guidance.
- Consider the needs of all sectors for primary or post primary provision.
- In execution of the duties on EA in Article 6 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986, ensure that Area Plans and Annual Action Plans take account, and adequately reflect the educational needs of current and future pupils in each school sector.
- As part of the updating and revision process, ensure that the planning figure is not breached through local reconciliation and negotiation to determine sectoral planning figures to take account of local needs and the potential for growth or contraction in any sector.
- Where necessary, bring relevant issues of wider interest to the APWG for resolution or referral to APSG.

APLG Locality One: Fermanagh & Omagh

Mid Ulster

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon

ALPG Locality Two: Derry & Strabane

Causeway Coasts & Glens

Mid and East Antrim
Antrim and Newtonabbey

GBA Representative: Ronnie Hassard
Email: jrhassard@hotmail.com

APLG Locality Three: Newry, Mourne & Down
Ards & North Down
Lisburn and Castlereagh
Belfast

GBA Representative: Geraldine Pettigrew
Email: mtgpettigrew@gmail.com

Process for Schools considering a Development Proposal

The Department of Education has recently published new Development Proposal (DP) guidance which can be accessed [here](#).

The guidance states that all proposers should work with their relevant sectoral body to have area planning issues pertaining to their school brought to APLG to allow education partners to fully explore all potential proposals from the formative stage.

If your school is considering a proposal and would like the GBA to make representation on your behalf please contact GBA Director Nuala O'Neill. Please note that a formal Development Proposal is not required at this stage.

The GBA representative on the local APLG will bring forward the outline of your proposal along with relevant statistical and other background information to the meeting.

If other education stakeholders feel that the proposal may impact on their school then it will be for the APLG to decide if a wider area solution needs to be found to incorporate your proposal with other sectors. If this is the case, the Education Authority (EA), as the lead statutory planning authority, will ask that the relevant sectors work together on a joint Case for Change to support Development Proposals being brought forward.

At the end of October 2017, APLGs will make recommendations to the EA on Development Proposals to be included in the Year 2 Annual Action Plan 2018/19. It is anticipated that the EA will advise schools by November 2017 if they will be included in the Annual Action Plan.

The Year 2 Annual Action Plan is due to be published by the end of March 2018. If a school's proposal is included it will be a matter for that school's Board of Governors to undertake the relevant statutory consultation prior to asking the GBA to bring forward your Development Proposal to the EA for publication after this date. The EA will undertake its duty to consult with all affected schools upon receipt of the development proposal and prior to taking the DP to the Education Authority's Education Committee for publication.

Once published, the DP is forwarded to the Department of Education's Area Planning Policy Team who will undertake further consultation on the proposal before passing this on to the Minister (or Permanent Secretary if there is no Minister in post). The final decision for the approval of any Development Proposal rests with the Minister/Permanent Secretary.

GBA Executive Vacancies

THE GBA is seeking expressions of interest for a co-opted vacancy on the GBA Executive Committee. The Committee meets once a month during term time to develop a programme of work on issues related to the voluntary grammar sector. At this time, we are keen to hear from individuals who have a background in finance. If your Board of Governors wishes to make a nomination please contact (e) nuala@gbani.org .

Advertise a Teaching/Non-Teaching Vacancy

As you may be aware the GBA can host teaching and non-teaching vacancies on its website www.gbani.org and the information is also shared on our twitter account. This service is free of charge for all member schools. Details of vacancies should be sent to administrator@gbani.org, please allow one working day for the vacancy to be updated. Please follow the GBA Twitter account [@gbani_jobs](https://twitter.com/gbani_jobs).

Change of Address

Over the summer months the GBA moved into a new office located on Victoria Street. All other GBA contact information remains the same. Can you please update your records with the following information:

Governing Bodies Association Northern Ireland
Third Floor
83-85 Victoria Street
Belfast
BT1 4PB

Telephone 028 9031 2259

Nuala O'Neill, Director (e) nuala@gbani.org (m) 077 8751 8408

Aidan Keenan, Administrator (e) administrator@gbani.org

Upcoming Events

Skills Northern Ireland

18 October 2017

Titanic Exhibition Centre

ASCL Northern Ireland Annual Conference

22 November 2017

Hilton, Templepatrick

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