

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING CABINET MEMBER

APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNORS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the appointment of suitable candidates to serve as local authority (LA) governors.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Boards of governors are the key strategic decision-making body for schools. It is the board's role to set a school's strategic framework and to ensure that all statutory duties are met. There are currently 72 boards of governors within North Lincolnshire serving both schools and academies. A number of schools within North Lincolnshire are federated, which means a governing board oversees the running of two schools.
- 2.2 The Department for Education confirms that the board of governors has three main duties, which are:
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
 - Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
 - Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.
- 2.3 In accordance with the School Governance Regulations (2012), maintained schools' boards are constituted from the following governor categories:
- **Parent Governors:** Parents, including carers, of registered pupils at the school at the time of election are eligible to stand for election as parent governors. There must be at least two parent governors on a board.
 - **Head Teacher:** The head teacher is automatically entitled to become a governor, unless s/he decides otherwise.
 - **Staff Governor:** Teaching and support staff who, at the time of election work at the school are eligible to be staff governors - Staff governors are elected by the school staff. There can only be one elected staff governor;
 - **Local Authority Governor:** LA governors are nominated by the local authority but appointed by the governing board. The local authority can nominate any eligible person as a local authority governor, but it is for the governing board to decide whether their nominee has the skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school and meets any other

eligibility criteria they have set. Only one local authority governor may be appointed by a board.

- **Foundation Governor:** Where appropriate, a number of foundation governors may be appointed by the relevant foundation.

2.4 In addition, the board may appoint as many additional co-opted governors as it considers necessary.

2.5 Once appointed or elected, governors must operate in the best interest of pupils. Whilst the role of the foundation governors provides them with an additional duty to preserve and develop a school's character (e.g. religious character) other governors are not expected to represent or lobby on behalf of their constituency.

2.6 The governance structure for academies is specified in their articles of association. An academy may choose whether to have a LA governor on their board. The process for appointing LA governors to serve on academy board is the same as for maintained schools.

2.7 LA local authority governors are expected to have:

- An interest in the future education and wellbeing of all children
- A desire to make a difference
- A willingness to accept responsibility
- An ability to work in a team, ask questions, listen and learn
- Time and commitment to undertake governor duties
- A commitment to fulfil the Nolan principles which relates to Standards in Public Life.

2.8 There are currently eight local authority (LA) governor vacancies, listed in Appendix 1. Vacancies occur for one of the following reasons: resignation or removal, end of term of office, change in category of governor (e.g. they become a co-opted governor) or death. LA authority governor vacancies are advertised on the council's website.

2.9 When a LA governor vacancy occurs, the relevant board identifies the necessary skills, knowledge and experience that would be required of the successful candidates. All potential applicants (including re-appointments) are required to complete an application form identifying their skills, knowledge and experience. This information is sent to the LA.

2.10 The LA is then able to match the board of governors' needs against the perspective candidates' application. The LA nominates suitable candidates to the school and the board of governors decide whether the nominee meets their requirements. The board may choose to reject or appoint the candidate accordingly.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 **Option 1:** To nominate the suitable applicant based on the skills they hold and those required by the governing boards.

3.2 **Option 2:** Not to nominate applicants for appointment.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option 1:

4.1.1 The prospective candidates meet both; the requirements identified by the board of governors and the expectations of the local authority.

4.1.2 Nominating the appointments will allow the board of governors the opportunity to consider appointing suitable candidates at the earliest opportunity. Suitable appointments will strengthen the board's position and maintain its capacity to deliver the strategic and statutory duties.

4.1.3 The appointment of the applicants would reduce the number of local authority governor vacancies within North Lincolnshire from eight to five (one appointment relates to the new Trentside Federation including Haxey, St Martin's and West Butterwick CoE Primary Schools).

4.2 Option 2

4.2.1 If the applicants were not nominated for appointment / re-appointment, the authority vacancy levels would not be reduced.

4.2.2 Additionally, the governing board may not have all the skills they require to ensure effective governance. It would however, not be appropriate to recommend for appointment or re-appointment candidates who were unable to undertake the duties required by local authority governors.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 None.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 An integrated impact assessment has not been undertaken in respect of this decision. The appointment of authority governors is determined in accordance with:

- The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 and
- The School Governance (Constitution) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 None

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the applicants in Appendix 1 are nominated for appointment by the boards of governors.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

- 1) The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 2) The School Governance (Constitution) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.
Guidance for Local Authority Governors – 2014
- 3) Report of the Director of People– Revised Process for the Selection & Nomination of Local Authority Governors October 2014.

APPENDIX 1

Table 1: Current Local Authority Governor Vacancies

School	Date of vacancy	Reason for vacancy
Alkborough Primary School	24 April 2016	End of term of office
Bowmandale Primary School	12 July 2016	Resignation
Brumby Junior School	24 May 2016	Resignation
Darley Centre Management Committee	9 June 2016	End of term of office
Gunness & Burringham CE Primary School	29 June 2016	Resignation
Oasis Academy Parkwood	10 May 2014	Resignation
South Ferriby Primary School	17 November 2015	Resignation
Wrawby St Mary's CE Primary School	8 August 2016	End of term of office

Table 2: Applications from persons requesting re-appointment to schools with authority governor vacancies

School	Applicant
The Trentside Federation	Mrs Carol Lindley

Table 3: Applications from persons requesting new appointment to schools with authority governor vacancies

School	Applicant
Bowmandale Primary School	George Thompson

Table 4: Terms of Office due to end by March 2017

School	Date of vacancy	Name
Castledyke Primary School	9 January 2017	Mr Neil Turner