

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER

APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNORS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the appointment or reappointment of suitable candidates to serve as local authority governors.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 On 29 October 2014 the process for the selection and nomination of local authority governors was agreed by cabinet member. The revised process meets the requirements of recent guidance which requires Local Authorities to match applicants' skills against governing bodies' requirements.
- 2.2 Where a vacancy occurs, or a current local authority governor's end of term of office is approaching, the process requires governing bodies to identify the skills they ideally require from any potential applicants.
- 2.3 All potential applicants are required to complete an application form identifying the skills they currently hold and the contribution they can make to the effective governance of the school. This includes applications for re-appointment.
- 2.4 Before applying for the vacancies all applicants are requested to read the 'Guidance for Local Authority Governors – 2014' highlighting the requirements and the enhanced expectations of the role. Authority governors are expected to play a key part in school improvement by supporting the council's ambitions and policies, helping to raise standards and improve outcomes for children and young people.
- 2.5 Governing bodies are constituted under either the 2007 Constitution Regulations or the 2012 Constitution Regulations. Depending upon which regulations a governing body is constituted, will determine the appointments process. These differences are described below:
- **Appointments to a governing body constituted under 2007 regulations:** Any authority governor appointments made by the Cabinet Member to a governing body constituted under the 2007 regulations are binding. The governing body must accept the appointment.

- **Appointments to a governing body constituted under 2012 regulations:** Under these regulations, the Cabinet Member is able to nominate the authority governor appointment. The person thereafter is appointed by the governing body having, in the opinion of the governing body, met any eligibility criteria that they have set.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 **Option 1:** To recommend appointment or re-appointment of suitable applicants based on the skills they hold and those required by the governing bodies.

Option 2: To not recommend appointment or reappointment.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 **Option 1:**

4.1.1 This option seeks to match each applicant to the most appropriate governing body based on their skills, knowledge and experience. This matching process provides the opportunity for each authority governor to maximise the use of their abilities to improve outcomes for children and young people.

4.2 **Option 2**

4.2.1 If an applicant was not recommended for appointment or re-appointment, the authority vacancy levels would not be reduced.

4.2.2 Additionally, the governing bodies would 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 2007
- 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 option 1 be implemented.

DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE

Civic Centre
Ashby Road
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1AB

Authors: Joanne Edgar/Steve Piper

Date: 24 March 2015

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007.
The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012.
The School Governance (Constitution) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.
Guidance for Local Authority Governors - 2014
Report of the Director of People– Revised Process for the Selection & Nomination of Local Authority Governors October 2014.