

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER

APPOINTMENT OF AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNORS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the appointment and re-appointment of suitable candidates to serve as authority governors.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 There are currently 23 authority governor vacancies. This equates to 22% of the total number of authority governors in North Lincolnshire. The average for authority vacancies is 12%.
- 2.3 Authority governors are expected to play a key role regarding school improvement by supporting the council's ambitions and policies, which will help raise standards and improve outcomes for children and young people.
- 2.4 In order to appoint the best available authority governors, applicants are required to complete a detailed application form which helps identifies their suitability to undertake the role of authority governor.
- 2.5 Each application is assessed against a predefined 'authority governor specification'. This ensures that, wherever possible, the most suitable applicant is appointed to the most relevant governing body.
- 2.6 Vacancies occur for a number of reasons, which are identified below:
- Resignation An authority governor may resign at any point, for any reason.
 - Refused Position An applicant / governing body may refuse to accept an authority governor appointment.
 - End of Term of Office Authority governors' term of office lasts for 4 years. Thereafter they must reapply, should they wish to continue serving as an authority governor.
 - Implementation of a New Instrument The implementation of a new instruments requires a governing body to be reconstituted and hence authority governors to be (re)appointed.

- Removal Authority governors may be removed from office under certain circumstances. Following removal of an authority governor, a new appointment may be appropriate.

2.7 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.

2.8 The local authority maintains a waiting list of candidates who wish to serve as authority governors.

2.9 There are two types of appointment which need to be considered:

New Appointments: When a vacancy occurs resulting in the resignation of the incumbent authority governor, it is necessary to appoint a new authority governor from the waiting list. Applicants are therefore referred to as 'new appointments' as they replace their predecessor.

Re-appointments: When an authority governor's term of office is near completion, the incumbent governor may request re-appointment. Governors' requests for re-appointment are, therefore, submitted to the Cabinet Member for consideration.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 **Option 1:** To appoint/re-appoint applicants to designated governing bodies.

Option 2: To not appoint/re-appoint applicants.

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.

4.1.2 Where possible this option takes into account the applicants preference to serve on a specific school. Applicants that meet the essential requirements as defined by the authority governor specification may be appointed to their preferred governing body or an alternative governing body. It is important to make sure that, where possible, an applicant's skills and abilities are used in a school where they are likely to make the biggest impact.

4.1.3 The appointment of applicants would reduce the number of authority governor vacancies within North Lincolnshire from 23 to 13. This equates to a 13% vacancy rate, which is just above the national average.

4.2 Option 2

4.2.1 If an applicant was not appointed/re-appointed, the authority vacancy levels would not be reduced. However, it would not be appropriate to appoint candidates who were unable to undertake the duties required by 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 Education School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007
- The Education School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012

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

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

The Education School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007.
The Education School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012.
Guidance for Authority/Local Authority Governors - 2013