

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	18 October 2013
Subject:	Consultation on Changes to the System of School Organisation

Summary:

The changes proposed by the Department for Education (DfE) are summarised in Appendix A and included in full in the DfE consultation document in Appendix B. This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (CYPSC) to consider and comment on the draft responses prepared by Local Authority (LA) officers to the consultation as detailed in the attached response form (Appendix C). The DfE launched the e-consultation on 12 September 2013 and responses must be received by 24 October 2013.

Actions Required:

- (1) To consider and provide comment on the appended consultation document together with the response form which incorporates the draft responses.
- (2) To agree any additional comments to be incorporated into the response form.

1. Background

The LA has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. The LA must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in the area to promote diversity and increase parental choice. Under the current legislative arrangements there are strict requirements that must be met and a process to be followed, either by the LA or the Governing Body of the school or academy, before a "prescribed change" (eg expansion or change in age range) can be implemented at a school or an academy.

The DfE are proposing deregulating the current processes to give more freedom to schools and academies enabling them to be more in charge of their own decisions about size and composition and respond to what parents want locally. For some "prescribed changes" statutory processes would be retained but made less prescriptive with a shortened time period. Further detail regarding which changes

are proposed to be made without a statutory process and those which would require the streamlined process is provided on the attached Appendix A.

2. Conclusion

LA officers have considered the impact of the DfE consultation document and summarised it in the attached document (Appendix A). Following discussions with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the CYPSC draft comments have been incorporated into the response form (Appendix C) for discussion and comment from CYPSC.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Summary of changes proposed in the DfE consultation
Appendix B	DfE Consultation document on Changes to the System of School Organisation
Appendix C	Consultation response form for submission by the LA to the DfE

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Michelle Andrews, who can be contacted on 01522 553269 or Michelle.andrews@lincolnshire.gov.uk.