

Open report on behalf of Richard Wills, Director responsible for Democratic Services

Report to:	County Council
Date:	16 May 2014
Subject:	Parent Governor Representation

Summary:

The Council is asked to consider reducing the number of Parent Governor Representatives (PGRs) required on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, following the resignation of one of the PGRs and unsuccessful attempts to fill the subsequent vacancy.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That the number of PGRs required to sit on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee be reduced from three to two.
- 2) That the Constitution be amended accordingly.

1. Background

- 1.1 All local authorities are required by the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001 to include Parent Governor Representatives (PGRs) on their committees dealing with education matters. PGRs represent all parents whose children attend a local maintained school, or are in some form of education provided by the local authority.
- 1.2 By law there must be at least two and not more than 5 PGRs on each committee dealing with education. In Lincolnshire there are three PGRs on each such committee.
- 1.3 On 7 March 2014 one of the Council's PGRs resigned his position.
- 1.4 On 14 March 2014 the Council wrote to the 872 parent governors serving on the governing bodies of all Lincolnshire County Council maintained schools, inviting them to stand for election as a PGR on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

- 1.5 The deadline for nominations was 11 April 2014, by which time the Council had received no nominations.
- 1.6 One can speculate about the reasons for the lack of response, but the reduction in the pool of eligible parent governors, caused by an increasing number of academies in the county, is likely to have had an impact. In 2009 the Council had 1,524 parent governors registered. At the time of this year's vacancy the figure was 872.
- 1.7 Where a vacancy for a PGR remains unfilled the Council must go through the statutory election procedure again within one year of the vacancy arising and at 6 monthly intervals after that until the vacancy is filled.
- 1.8 The alternatives therefore are either:
- To continue to go through the statutory process until the vacancy is filled; or
 - In light of the reduction in the pool of potential PGRs, reduce the number of PGRs to the statutory minimum of two on each of the relevant committees.
- 1.9 If agreed, this would have an impact on the application of the proportionality rules which will need to be reflected in the allocation of seats on the Council's committees.

2. Conclusion

Council is asked to decide whether to reduce the number of PGRs on Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee in view of the lack of response to attempts to fill the vacancy.

3. Legal Comments:

The Council would be acting lawfully whether it reduces the number of PGRs on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to two or leaves it at three. If it leaves the numbers at three the Council will have a statutory duty to continue to follow the prescribed election process until the vacancy is filled.

The decision is reserved to the full Council.

4. Resource Comments:

There are no material financial implications arising from acceptance of the recommendations in this report.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

n/a

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

6. Background Papers

Background paper	Where the paper can be viewed
Letter to all parent governors, inviting nominations for election of a parent governor representative on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, dated 17 March 2014.	Democratic Services, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln

This report was written by Nigel West, who can be contacted on 01522 552840 or nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk.