

## Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 10 June 2021

### Report of the Head of Service - Education Improvement

#### Part I

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

### Procedures for the Consideration of the Appointment and Removal of Local Authority Governors

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Paul Dyson-Knight, Tel: (01257) 516166, Head of Lancashire Governor Services  
paul.dyson-knight@lancashire.gov.uk

#### Executive Summary

Approval of the Procedures for the appointment and removal of local authority school governors, which have been updated to align with the current constitution arrangements for Cabinet decision-making.

#### Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the revised Procedures for the Consideration of the Appointment and Removal of Local Authority Governors, as set out at Appendix 'A'.

#### Background and Advice

Whilst it is for the local authority to identify and nominate local authority governors, the decision whether to appoint a nominated governor to the school governing board belongs to the school governing board. The Department for Education Governance Handbook 2020 clarifies that, "Once appointed, LA Governors must govern in the interests of the school and not represent or advocate for the political or other interests of the LA; it is unacceptable practice to link the right to nominate LA governors to the local balance of political power." There are no statutory regulations to determine how local authorities should identify and nominate the local authority governor for a maintained school, and therefore the local authority is free to decide the arrangements for nomination. Similarly, the regulations give no prescription for procedures for the removal of local authority Governors which again is a matter for local determination.

Current procedures set out that anonymised local authority governor applications are considered by a cross-party panel of two elected members from each political party,

although this has not worked in practice, falling to the Lead Member alone; and governor removals are approved by the appropriate Cabinet Member and Lead Member. In order to bring these procedures in line with current constitution arrangements for Cabinet decision-making, new arrangements are proposed.

The updated procedures transfer routine decision-making to a panel, comprising representatives from Lancashire Governor Services, Lancashire Association of School Governing Bodies and Lancashire County Council Human Resources, reporting to the Executive Director, Cabinet Member and Lead Member with responsibility for education and school support. Where urgent intervention is required to support schools causing concern, the procedures also allow for the appointment of additional governors to be made by the Executive Director, following consultation with the Cabinet Member and Lead Member.

The updated Procedures for the Consideration of the Appointment and Removal of Local Authority Governors are set out at Appendix 'A'.

### **Consultations**

N/A

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Risk management**

#### School Effectiveness

These procedures will support the sufficiency of suitable local authority governors for maintained schools, contributing to the effective leadership of maintained schools.

### **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
-------	------	-------------

None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A