

**22 February 2016****Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE ACTING SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS  
AND INCLUSION****REGIONAL SCHOOLS COMMISSIONER****Purpose of the Report**

1. To advise the Committee of the cancellation of the arrangement for the Regional Schools Commissioner, Jenny Bexon-Smith, to attend a meeting of the Children and Young People's Committee.

**Information and Advice**

2. In September 2014, eight Regional Schools Commissioners (RSCs) were appointed with statutory responsibility to intervene in underperforming academies and free schools, as well as to approve the opening of new free schools.
3. The RSC for East Midlands and the Humber is Jenny Bexon-Smith who is supported by a headteacher board of between 6 to 8 elected, appointed or co-opted members. Four headteachers on each board were elected by academy headteachers in each region. Following initial elections, members have subsequently been co-opted onto the board (**Appendix 1**).
4. On 1 July 2015, the remit of the RSC was further expanded and the role now includes responsibility for approving the conversion of underperforming maintained schools into academies as well as identifying and approving their sponsors.
5. The Service Director for Education, Standards and Inclusion, accompanied by senior officers from the Support to Schools Service, meets formally with the RSC and her officers approximately termly. These meetings have provided a formal context in which the RSC has advised NCC officers of plans and proposals in relation to underperforming academies. In addition, the RSC has also raised concerns about underperforming maintained schools.
6. On 1 October 2015, the then Service Director for Education Standards and Inclusion invited Jenny Bexon Smith to attend a forthcoming Children and Young People's Committee meeting, as agreed by the Committee. The rationale for extending this invitation was to allow Elected Members to question the RSC and seek clarification about her plans for underperforming academies in Nottinghamshire. The RSC agreed to attend the February 2016 Committee meeting.

7. On 1 February 2016, a further letter was sent from the RSC formally declining the invitation to the Children and Young People's Committee due to other pressing commitments. The RSC had reflected on the invitation and confirmed that she would not be attending on an alternative date as she feels that the current regular meetings she has with the Council's senior officers are the most appropriate forum for keeping the Local Authority apprised of her actions in respect of academies and does not think that her attendance at Committee would add anything further to the intelligence shared at those regular meetings. The letter extends an invitation to the Lead Member to attend the formal termly meetings that take place between the RSC and senior officers.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. The report is for noting only.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

9. The report is for noting only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the cancellation of the arrangement for the Regional Schools Commissioner to attend the Children and Young People's Committee by the RSC is noted.

**Marion Clay**

**Acting Service Director, Education Standards and Inclusion**

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### **Constitutional Comments**

11. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

### **Financial Comments (SS 10/02/16)**

12. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Regional Schools Commissioner and headteacher board meetings and minutes for East Midlands and Humber

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/schools-commissioners-group/about/our-governance>

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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