

**THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOLS COMMISSIONER**

*To:* **Children and Young People Committee**

*Meeting Date:* **13 September, 2016**

*From:* **Executive Director Children, Families and Adults**

*Electoral division(s):* **All**

*Forward Plan ref:*

*Key decision:* **No**

*Purpose:* **To brief the Committee on the role of the Regional Schools Commissioner, who is attending to answer the Committee's questions.**

*Recommendation:* **The Committee is asked to note the content of the paper.**

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 24 May the CYP Committee discussed a range of issues regarding the management, challenge and support of academies, multi-academy trusts (MATs) and Free Schools and resolved to invite Dr Tim Coulson, the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for the East of England and North-East London, to its September meeting to answer questions about these issues.

## **2.0 THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOLS COMMISSIONER (RSC)**

- 2.1 The government established RSCs in 2014 to support the development of its academies and Free Schools programme.

- 2.2 RSCs act on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education and are accountable to the National Schools Commissioner, Sir David Carter.

- 2.3 The main responsibilities of the RSCs are:

- taking action where academies and free schools are underperforming
- intervening in academies where governance is inadequate
- deciding on applications from local-authority-maintained schools to convert to academy status
- improving underperforming maintained schools by providing them with support from a strong sponsor
- encouraging and deciding on applications from sponsors to operate in a region
- taking action to improve poorly performing sponsors
- advising on proposals for new free schools
- advising on whether to cancel, defer or enter into funding agreements with free school projects
- deciding on applications to make significant changes to academies and free schools

(source: DfE website)

- 2.4 The RSC is supported by a Headteacher board (HTB), which is made up of experienced academy headteachers and other sector leaders who advise and challenge RSCs on the decisions they make.

- 2.5 The HTB for the East of England and North East London comprises:

### Elected

- Caroline Haynes (Tendring Technology College)
- Stephen Munday (Comberton Academy Trust)
- Debbie Rogan (HEARTS Academy Trust)
- Margaret Wilson (The King John School Academy Trust)

### Appointed

- Rachel De Souza (Inspiration Trust)
- Steve Lancashire (Reach2 Academy Trust)

### Co-opted

- Roy Blatchford (National Education Trust)
- Mark Jeffries (Mills and Reeve LLP)

- 2.6 Each RSC has a regional vision statement, which describes their aims and commitments in fulfilling their responsibilities within their region; the statement for the East of England and NE London is attached as Appendix 1.

### **3.0 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

#### **3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all**

3.1.1 There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### **3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives**

3.2.1 There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### **3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people**

3.3.1 There are no significant implications for this priority.

### **4.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Resource Implications**

4.1.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

#### **4.2 Statutory, Legal and Risk**

4.2.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

#### **4.3 Equality and Diversity**

4.3.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

#### **4.4 Engagement and Communications**

4.4.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

#### **4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement**

4.5.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

#### **4.6 Public Health**

4.6.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

### **Source Documents**

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
Further information, including a more detailed account of the RSC's role in 'RSC Decision Making Framework', and the minutes of the HTB meetings, can be found on the DfE website.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/schools-commissioners-group/about#Headteacher-boards">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/schools-commissioners-group/about#Headteacher-boards</a>