CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS
FOR THE 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR
REPORT FOR ACADEMIES, VOLUNTARY AIDED AND FOUNDATION SCHOOLS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 All admission authorities have a statutory duty to consult on:

- any proposed changes to their admission arrangements (ie the admissions criteria).
- Their proposed admission number, where governors are looking to decrease the number.

1.2 Where admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no need to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.

1.3 The admission arrangements for the 2017/18 academic year must be determined by the governing body by 28 February 2016.

2 LA SUPPORT FOR OWN ADMISSION AUTHORITIES REGARDING ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 Included in the purchased Admissions SLA for academies, or as an integral part of the service to voluntary aided and foundation schools, North Lincolnshire Council offers support to governors, ensuring that any proposed changes to admission arrangements are compliant with admissions legislation. The council also offers to undertake any necessary public consultations on behalf of schools.

2.2 Where governing bodies wish to change their school’s admission arrangements they are advised to contact Sean Kendrew – Access Manager (Admissions and Transport) on 01724 297263 or sean.kendrew@northlincs.gov.uk. Subject to availability, attendance at governing body meetings can be arranged.
3. 2017/18 ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 The Admissions Working Group will meet on 17th September and all chairs of governors have been invited to attend or send representation regarding possible changes to either the council’s or their own admission arrangements. If any admission authority proposes changes at the Admissions Working Group, the council will then notify all governing bodies thereafter for information.

3.2 Paragraphs 1.6 to 1.39 of the DfE School Admissions Code includes examples of oversubscription criteria, some of which are as follows:

- Siblings at the school
- Distance from school
- Catchment areas
- Feeder schools
- Social and medical need
- Children of staff at school
- Children eligible for pupil premium or service premium

3.3 A draft admission policy for each school will be circulated with the agenda for the Autumn Term meeting. A previous reference to “residence order” has been changed to “child arrangements order” to reflect a change in legislation. The definitions given for “child arrangements order” and “special guardianship order” have been removed (as they are defined in the code itself there is no need to define them in the arrangements). In all other aspects the arrangements are unchanged from 2016/17.

4. ADMISSION NUMBERS

4.1 As part of determining their admission arrangements, own admission authorities must set an admission number for each relevant age group eg reception year or year 7.

4.2 At the time of allocation if there is greater demand than anticipated, the council may liaise with the school to discuss the possibility of admitting additional pupils.

5. CONSULTATION PROCESS

5.1 If an admission authority is proposing changes (see paragraph 1.1) a full public consultation with all relevant parties must take place. The consultation period must last for a minimum of six weeks for any period between 1 October 2015 and 31 January 2016 (see also paragraph 2.1 above).

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Admission Arrangements

Governors should consider whether they wish to adopt the draft 2016/17 admissions policy, or make changes.

6.2 Admission Numbers

Governors should consider their current admission number and decide whether it should be kept the same, increased, or decreased.
7. RESPONSE

7.1 If the governing body is satisfied with the draft policy for 2017/18 and is either maintaining or increasing the published admission number, it can formally determine the policy. The chair is asked to e-mail sean.kendrew@northlincs.gov.uk within one week of the meeting taking place to confirm that the determination has taken place, and to advise what admission number has been set.

7.2 If the governing body wishes to change its arrangements or decrease its published admission number, a full public consultation will be required. The chair is asked to e-mail sean.kendrew@northlincs.gov.uk within one week of the meeting taking place giving details of the proposed changes to the arrangements and/or admission number. As per paragraph 2.1 above relevant support will be offered.

Service Director, People’s Service
Hewson House
PO Box 35
Station Road
BRIGG
North Lincolnshire
DN20 8XJ

Sean Kendrew – Access Manager (Admissions and Transport)