Empowering Schools - Consultation on School Governance, Nov: 2017 - Key Points

1. A Headteachers' Charter will set out HT powers and responsibilities

- Freedom to decide teaching and learning policy, how best to design the curriculum in line with the Curriculum for Excellence and to determine improvement priorities.
- A new duty to work collaboratively with other schools.
- A new duty to involve the Parent Council and Parent Forum in 'substantive matters of school policy and improvement'.
- Expectation HTs will work collaboratively with other professionals to achieve excellence and equity in their schools.
- Freedom to decide the staffing and management structure in school and decide who works in the school.
- Be open to professional challenge from peers / staff / community / local authority / school inspectors.
- More control over school related budgets
- Expect high quality professional support from a newly established Regional Improvement Collaborative and "world class educational support services" from the Council.

2. Parental and Community Engagement

- Current HT duty to "inform and consult with their Parent Council" will be replaced by a duty "to work collaboratively with their Parent Councils on substantive matters of school policy and improvement."
- The duty to collaborate with parents on policies, improvement planning and curriculum design will also apply to the Parent Forum.
- The legal definition of parental involvement will be extended to include all aspects of parental engagement.
- The duty of Parent Councils to represent the diversity of the school community to actively promote contact with pupils.
- Every school will have access to a home school link worker.

3. Pupil Participation

• General duty on HTs to promote and support pupil participation in the pupil's own learning, decision-making relating to the life and work of the school and pupil participation in the wider community.

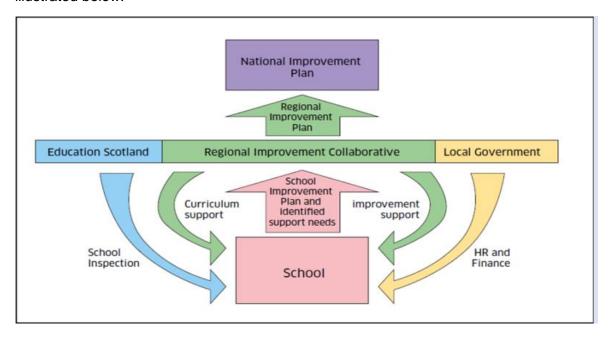
4. Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs)

- RICs will take over all aspects of school improvement planning from local councils.
- There are 6 RICs covering the whole country.
- Highland is in a RIC with Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Shetland, Orkney, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Argyll & Bute.
- Each RIC will led by a RIC Lead (already appointed).
- RICS are expected to have a Regional Improvement Plan in place by January 2018.

5. Education Workforce Council (EWC)

- The EWC will take over the current responsibilities of the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS), Community Learning and Development Standards Council and will register all other education professionals.
- The EWC will be independent of Government.
- The full list of EWC functions can be found on page 28 of the Consultation document

There is no specific section in the Consultation on the future role of Local Councils, but it is illustrated below.



Regional Improvement Collaboratives Map

