

Committee:	<b>Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness</b>
Date:	<b>19 June 2012</b>
Title of Report:	<b>ESCC Schools Forum Constitution</b>
By:	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>
Purpose of Report:	<b>To inform members on changes in Schools Forum membership and proposed legislation changes to Schools Forum Regulations</b>

---

**Recommendation:**

**The Lead Member is recommended to approve changes to the Schools Forum membership and to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to amend the School Forum Constitution in response to changes directed by legislation.**

---

**1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 Any additional one off or on-going cost will be charged to the Schools Dedicated School Grant (DSG) subject to ESCC Schools Forum approval.

**2. Supporting information**

2.1 The Department for Education (DFE) announced in the papers "School funding reform: next steps" and "Reformed funding system: operational implications" that it intends to amend the Schools Forum regulations with the intention that changes come into force in September 2012.

2.2 Attached at **appendix 1** is an extract from the consultation document identifying the proposed changes that the DFE intend to make to the Schools' Forums (England) Regulations 2010.

2.3 Once the regulations have been formally published the Schools' Forum Constitution will need to be revised, reflecting changes in membership and function before 1 September 2012. It will then be necessary to place them before the Schools Forum. With no date as yet confirmed by the Department for the publication of the Schools' Forum Regulations, work on the constitution will need to be completed urgently to meet the September deadline.

2.4 In East Sussex, due to the changes in 14-19 representation, the composition of the membership of the Schools' Forum will need to change from September 2012 to reflect the increase in the number of Academies and a reduction in overall membership to 28.

2.5 Of its total membership of 28, the Schools' Forum agreed, at the meeting on 10 May 2012, to hold the total number of schools' members to 20, which is its current constitution.

2.6 Within the overall schools' membership of 20, academies will increase their members to four: 1 primary, 1 special and 2 secondary. Offsetting this, there will be reductions in other representation as follows:

- Maintained primary representation by one (1); Governor (1)
- Maintained secondary representation by two (2); Headteacher (1), Governor (1)
- Maintained special representation by one (1); Headteacher (1)

2.7 The full list of proposed membership can be found in background document 3 - ESCC Schools' Forum 10 May 2012 - Amendment of the Schools' Forum Membership - paper presented by Children's Services Assistant Director for Resources. (Agenda item 5).

2.8 FE colleges were granted a place on the Forum because of the Machinery of Government changes implemented by the previous government; which have subsequently been reversed by the current government. The Forum agreed that there will be a single representative on the Forum for 16-19 providers.

### **3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendations**

3.1 Lead Member is recommended to approve the changes to the ESCC Schools Forum membership and to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to redraft the Schools' Forum Constitution in accordance with changes in final published legislation so that the September deadline can be met.

MATT DUNKLEY  
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Andrew Lock - Head of Strategic Finance Children's Services.

Tel: 01273 336910

Local Members: All

Appendix 1 - The Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2010

Background Documents:

1. DFE: 26 March 2012 - School funding reform: Next steps towards a fairer system
2. DFE: 26 March 2012 - Reformed funding system: Operational implications guidance for Local Authorities
3. ESCC Schools Forum 10 May 2012 - Amendment of the Schools Forum Membership - paper presented by Children's Services Assistant Director for Resources to. (Agenda item 5.)

**Extract from “Reformed funding system - operational guidance for Local Authorities**

**Changes to schools forums**

49. We have set out in the next steps document that for 2013-14 that we will make some amendments to the Schools Forums Regulations. It is our intention that these should come into force in September 2012 in time for the final forum discussions relating to the 2013-14 formula. In terms of membership and participation, we intend to:

- a) Remove the requirement to have a minimum of 15 people on a Forum;
- b) Restrict other local authority attendees from participating in meetings unless they are a Lead Member, DCS, DCS representative or are providing specific financial or technical advice (including presenting a paper to the Forum);
- c) Restrict the voting arrangements by allowing only schools members and the PVI members to vote on the funding formulae;

50. On the first of these, **smaller authorities in particular may therefore wish to review the total size of their forum and decide whether to reduce the number of members below 15.**

51. The other two changes relate to participation in meetings and voting so **authorities will need to review their forum procedures or standing 13 orders to ensure consistency with the regulations.**

52. We have also said that we will give the EFA observer status at School Forum meetings to support the local process and to provide a national perspective if members thought it helpful or if there were any concerns about the running of the Forum.

