

Agenda Item 6



Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 12th January 2018

Title of report: Schools Forum Constitution

By: Jill Fisher, Finance Manager

Purpose of report: To brief the Schools Forum on updates to the Schools Forum constitution for adoption and the review of Forum membership.

Decision or Information: Decision – Adoption required

Voting relevant to: All

1. Constitution

1.1 The Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) issued updated Operational and good practice guidance and the East Sussex Schools Forum has been reviewed to ensure all necessary changes have been incorporated.

1.2 The main changes from the previous version are:-

- Ref 2.2
 - Recommend that, whilst there is one LA maintained special school, there will be a representative on Forum.
 - Recommend that there is at least one representative in each of the schools phases and sectors whilst there is at least one school in that category.
- Ref 2.5
 - Further clarification of when a Forum member ceases to hold office.
- Ref 3.5
 - Additional reference to Schools Forum Regulations 2012.
- Ref 5.5
 - Clarification that LA Maintained schools are the only sector that can vote on de-delegated items.
- Appendix 1.3 and 7.5
 - Further clarification of the LA role in appointing School and Academy or Free School members in the event of inconclusive elections.

2. Membership

2.1 The membership of the Schools Forum is reviewed regularly to ensure that there is proportionate representation of each phase in maintained and academy schools in line with the number of pupils in each category.

- 2.2 The latest review was done using the October 2017 census data and the membership was found to be broadly in line with the current membership profile, but the calculation did show marginal shifts in both Primary and Secondary phases.
- 2.3 In the Primary phase two factors have impacted on the calculation; there were a number of academy conversions in the period September to December 2017 and the 4 new academy and free schools have begun to have a material impact on the pupil numbers as they reach their third intake year.
- 2.4 This would indicate that the Primary phase would warrant 11 representatives across both Academy and Maintained sectors, with 3 and 8 reps respectively, but to comply with this calculation would increase the total Forum representatives by one.
- 2.5 Whilst the calculation of the overall Secondary phase representatives would indicate a reduction from 8 to 7 reps, the Secondary phase weighting has also shifted slightly towards the academy sector as the number of pupils grows in the free schools. This would mean 3 maintained and 4 academy reps instead of the current allocation of 4 in each sector.
- 2.6 As the shift is limited to one rep in each phase, in the interest of stability, it is suggested that no changes are implemented at this point. However, should any member of Forum reach the end of their tenure, or resign, or their school change designation, it is recommended that the membership is reviewed again before any replacement is advertised.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Schools Forum to agree to the revised constitution and to approve that this is sent to Director of Children's Services for approval.
- 3.2 Schools Forum is asked to agree to retain the status quo of the membership until such time as a vacancy arises, when any replacements will need to be reflective of any revised calculations for phases and sectors as in 2.6 above.