

Agenda Item 6



Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 18th January 2019

Title of report: Schools Forum Constitution

By: Sarah Rice, Finance Manager

Purpose of report: To brief Schools Forum on the review of the constitution and membership of the East Sussex Schools Forum and to review the summary powers and responsibilities of the Schools Forum.

Decision or Information: Decision – Constitution agreed

Voting relevant to: All

1. Constitution

- 1.1 The Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) issued an updated Operational and good practice guidance September 2018 and the East Sussex Schools Forum constitution has been reviewed to ensure it is compliant.
- 1.2 The current constitution is compliant with no amendments proposed and this is attached for the reference of all members in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 The DfE have published a summary document outlining Schools Forum powers and responsibilities, and this is reproduced in Appendix 2 for information.

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 2018 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 As was the case last year the review would indicate that the Primary phase would warrant 11 representatives across both Academy and Maintained sectors, with 3 and 8 reps respectively. To comply with this calculation would increase the total primary forum representatives by one (we currently have 2 academy representatives and 8 maintained primary representatives).
- 2.4 The calculation of the overall Secondary phase representatives would indicate a reduction from 8 to 7 reps. This would mean 3 maintained and 4 academy reps instead of the current allocation of 4 in each sector.
- 2.5 Since the last review we have replaced 2 academy representatives, due to arising vacancies, 1 in each phase. 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 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 is asked to agree to retain the current constitution including the status quo of the membership until a resignation or change in school designation allows for a change. Any replacements will need to be reflective of any revised calculations for phases and sectors at that time.