
Meeting: Schools Forum
Date: 5 March 2012
Subject: Schools Forum Membership Review
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Summary: The report details the changes which will be made to the composition of the Schools Forum from 1 April 2012.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Martha Clampitt, Committee Services Officer
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATION(S):

To implement the Schools Forum Membership Review and agree the changes which will take effect from 1 April 2012.

Background

1. The current membership of the Schools Forum came into effect on 1 April 2009.
2. Membership lasts for three years until 31 March 2012, so elections are required to elect members for 2012/13 to 2015/16. At such time it is appropriate to review the composition of the Forum.
3. The rules are as follows:-

A Schools Forum must have a minimum of 15 members, composed of:-

- School members and academy members who must make up at least two thirds of the membership of the forum and include:-
 - 1 nursery representative
 - 1 special schools representative
 - Primary school, other than nursery, representatives
 - Secondary school representatives
- Non-school members are as detailed below
- Academy representatives – the number of which must be proportionate to the number of academies within the area.

4. The current composition of the Schools Forum is 17 members comprised of the following:-

Schools members* (12)

2 Lower School Headteachers
 2 Lower School Governors
 1 Nursery Headteacher
 2 Middle School Headteachers
 1 Middle School Governors
 2 Upper School Headteachers
 1 Upper School Governor
 1 Special School Headteacher

* of these the existing membership now has 5 academy representatives, due to recent conversions.

Non-School members (5)

1 Roman Catholic Diocese Representative
 1 Church of England Diocese Representative
 1 Private, Voluntary or Independent sector Provider Representative
 1 Local Authority 14 – 19 partnership representative
 1 Trades Union Representative

The Lead Member has observer status by right and the Director of Children's Services, or her nominee has the right to advise the panel.

5. Since 2009, a number of schools have converted to Academies. The breakdown is as follows:-

Type of Schools	No. of Schools 2009	Expected No. of Schools at 31/03/12	No. of Academies 2012	Suggested No. of Academy Reps
Nursery	4	4	0	0
Lower	97	89	8	1
Middle	24	15	9	1
Upper	10	3	7	2
Special	5	4	1	0
Totals	140	115	25	4

Conclusion

6. It is proposed that the composition for 2012/13 to 2015/16 be as follows:-

- School members 11 representatives
- Non-school members 5 representatives
- Academy members 4 representatives comprising:-
 - 1 representative for lower schools
 - 1 representative for middle schools
 - 1 representative for upper schools

7. The following factors were taken into consideration when determining the representation:-
- Upper schools are currently at 70% converted to Academies with a further 10% (one school) due to convert this year. This will leave two Upper schools as non Academy. One of the two remaining has voted to explore Academy partners.
 - Academy representatives are voting members. **
 - Finance Officers provided a breakdown of the number of schools in each band (i.e. nursery, lower, middle, upper and special) and the number of students in each band.
 - The Academies were identified and put into a separate listing.
 - The percentage of schools which had converted for each band were determined and then the number of representatives for the percentage calculated. It was felt that the lower schools had a small conversion percentage (8%) and should have an Academy representative.
 - There is a representative of Central Bedfordshire College which is not now funded according to the local funding formula, however; there will be a University Technical College (UTC) in September 2012 which will take school age children. UTC funding arrangements to be confirmed. It is recommended that the College place be reallocated to the Principal of the UTC.

** Mr K Howkins at the Department of Education confirmed on 15 February 2012, that Academy Members had full voting rights.

8. There is nothing within the regulations which would indicate that an Academy member could not be elected Chairman, as they are a full voting member.
9. In view of the suggested changes to the composition of the Forum, it is recommended that there is a search for new representatives in every category. i.e. start again.

Appendices: None

Background Papers: (open to public inspection) Committee Services, Priory House