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**Meeting:** Schools Forum  
**Date:** 23 June 2014  
**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 September 2014.

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**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:**

**To implement a Schools Forum Membership Interim Review and agree the changes which will take effect from 1 September 2014 as set out in paragraph 15 below.**

**Background**

1. The current membership of the Schools Forum came into effect on 1 April 2012.
2. Membership lasts for three years so the next planned review will be implemented to take effect for 31 March 2015. However, in view of the increased number of Academies in Central Bedfordshire, it is appropriate to carry out an interim review now.

**Conversion to Academy Trusts**

3. Fourteen lower schools have converted to Academy Trust status since the last review. This has led to the pupil membership of lower school age-range Academies reaching 3,730.
4. In view of the increase in pupil numbers at this level in Academies, it would be appropriate to increase the number of lower school Academy representatives by 1 to 3.
5. Five middle schools have converted to Academy Trust status since the last review of the Schools Forum membership. This has led to the pupil membership of middle school age-range Academies reaching 8,392.

6. In view of the increase in pupil numbers at this level in Academies, it would be appropriate to increase the number of middle school Academy representatives by 1, to 2.

### **Schools Forum Membership Requirements**

7. The rules about membership are as follows:-
8. A Schools Forum must have a minimum of 15 members, comprised of:-
9. • 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 as detailed below
- Academy representatives – the number of which must be proportionate to the number of academies within the area.
10. The current composition of the Schools Forum, as agreed at your meeting on 14 October 2013, is 21 members comprising the following:-
11. 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
  - 1 PRU representative
12. Non-School members (5)
- 1 Roman Catholic Diocese Representative
  - 1 Church of England Diocese Representative
  - 1 Private, Voluntary or Independent sector Provider Representative
  - 1 Post-16 Education representative
  - 1 Trades Union Representative
13. Academy members (4)
- 1 lower school
  - 1 middle school
  - 2 upper school.

14. The Council's Lead Executive Member has observer status by right and the Director of Children's Services or her nominee has the right to advise the Forum.

## **Conclusion**

15. It is proposed that the composition for the period September 2014 to the new municipal year 2015/16 be 23, as follows:-
  - School members 12 representatives
  - Non-school members 5 representatives
  - Academy members 6 representatives comprising:-
    - 2 representative for lower schools
    - 2 representative for middle schools
    - 2 representative for upper schools
7. The following factors were taken into consideration when determining the representation:-
  - Academy representatives are members with full voting rights, as confirmed by Mr K Howkins, Department of Education, on 15 February 2012.
  - 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 number of pupils set out in the spreadsheet attached at Appendix A.
8. There is nothing in the Regulations to indicate that an Academy member may 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 a recruitment drive be carried out to fill any vacancies and the additional Academy places.

**Appendices:** Appendix A (spreadsheet)

**Background Papers:** none