

Schools Funding Forum 7th March 2019

ITEM 4

Subject Heading:**Schools Funding Forum Membership****Report Author:****David Allen – Strategic Finance Manager****Eligibility to vote:****All members**

SUMMARY

This report updates members on school and academy representation on the Schools Funding Forum based on the October 2018 census.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum notes the updated membership.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Introduction

DFE guidance on schools forums advises as follows:

There is no maximum or minimum size of a schools forum. Authorities may take various issues into account in deciding the actual size, including the need to have representation for various types of school, and the local authority's policy on representation of non-schools members. However, care should be taken to keep the schools forum to a reasonable size to ensure that it does not become too unwieldy.

Types of member: schools forums must have 'schools members', 'academies members and 'non-schools members'. Schools and academies members together must number at least two-thirds of the total membership and the balance between maintained primary, maintained secondary and academies members must be broadly proportionate to the pupil numbers in each category, so the structure of Forum should be regularly reviewed.

Academies members must represent mainstream academies, special academies and alternative provision academies. There is no requirement for academies members to represent specific primary and secondary phases, but it is encouraged

that representation remains broadly proportionate to pupil numbers. Academy members must be separately elected and designated from maintained school representatives.

The DfE operational guidance states that Schools Forum members will need the skills and competencies to manage Forum business and to take a strategic view across the whole education estate whilst acting as representative of the group that has elected them. Furthermore, they should be easily contactable and pro-active in raising the profile of issues and communicate decisions, and the reasons behind them, effectively.

2. The need for review

The membership was last reviewed in May 2018 with an amendment in September 2018 once all of the secondary schools in Havering had become academies. Since the current constitution was agreed there has been an increase in the number of maintained schools that have become academies. The implementation of a national funding formula will lead to a DfE review of the future of Schools Forums but in the meantime there continues to be statutory requirement for a Schools Forum in each local authority.

3. Review

The current membership and changes are as follows:

School members

	Current	Change	Revised
Primary - Maintained			
Head Teachers	5		5
Governors	2		2
Primary - Academies	2	+1	3
Secondary - Academies	6		6
Special - Maintained			
Head Teachers	1		1
Special - Academies	1		1
AP - Academy	1		1
Total School Members	18		19

Non School members

Post 16	1		1
Early Years – PVI	1		1
Diocese	1		1
Trade Unions			
Teaching Staff	1		1
Support Staff	1		1
Total Non School Members	5		5
Total	23	1	24

Appendix A details the balance of school and academy representation and the number of pupils in each sector.