

**SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM
16TH MAY 2012**

Membership Update and Review

**(Joint report: Director of Education and Children's Services and Chair of
Schools Forum)**

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report updates Schools Forum on the current position with regard to membership and identifies issues to be addressed.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools Forum considers the update regarding membership and supports the proposals outlined in paragraph 5.4 within this report.

3 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The membership of the Schools Forum requires review as a number of members reach the end of their term of office in April and August 2012. In addition it is timely to review membership in order to ensure appropriate phase representation across the primary and secondary phases and of academies.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The current membership of the Schools Forum is attached as **Annex A** to this report. It is essential in the light of imminent schools funding reform that a robust and well informed Schools Forum is in place to work in partnership with officers of the Local Authority to deal with the forthcoming changes.
- 5.2 An analysis of the pupil numbers (January pupil census) has confirmed that the primary / secondary representation is broadly in proportion to the total number of pupils in each phase and that the representation of Academies is also broadly in proportion to the numbers of pupils currently in Academies. This is in keeping with the current Schools Forum constitution (**Annex B**).
- 5.3 9 schools members of the Schools Forum reach the end of their term of office in either April 2012 (2 members) or August 2012 (7 members). This means that it would be possible that 50% of the schools' membership of the Schools Forum – 5 Headteachers and 4 Governors) could change by September 2012. In addition, the Private, Voluntary

and Independent (PVI) representative reached the end of their term of office in August 2011 and a replacement is being sought. Advice has also been sought from the DfE regarding the possibility of a representative for the Children's Centres.

- 5.4 It is therefore proposed:
- 5.4.1 That no change is made to the overall number of members for each phase as this is broadly in proportion to the number of pupils in the relevant phases.
 - 5.4.2 That no change is made to the current number of members representing Academies as this is broadly in proportion to the number of pupils being educated in Academies in Slough.
 - 5.4.3 That all members reaching the end of their term of office be asked if they would be willing to be nominated by the Schools Forum for a further term of office of either 2 or 3 years (to minimise the chance of high turnover in any one year in the future). It is hoped that the current members would be willing to be nominated to provide a basis for continuity if elected.
 - 5.4.4 That the Primary Headteachers' phase group be asked to consider any nominations from the Schools Forum and any other nominations from their group and to elect 4 primary Headteacher representatives. The group should be mindful of the need to balance membership across types of schools and to maintain the balance of representation would need to elect 1 Academy representative, 2 Community school representatives and 1 Voluntary Aided school representative.
 - 5.4.5 That the Secondary Headteachers' phase group be asked to consider any nominations from the Schools Forum and any other nominations from their group and to elect 1 secondary Headteacher representative from a Community school.
 - 5.4.6 That Chairs of Governors of secondary Academies and Voluntary Aided schools be asked to consider any nominations from the Schools Forum as well as any other nominations their Governing Bodies make to replace the one Academy Governor representative and the one Voluntary Aided school representative required. Governing Bodies be asked to forward their nomination to the clerk to the Schools Forum. If the nomination process is not conclusive the clerk will progress any necessary election.
 - 5.4.7 That Chairs of Governors of primary Community schools and Voluntary Aided schools be asked to consider any nominations from the Schools Forum as well as any other nominations their Governing Bodies make to replace the one Community school Governor representative and the one Voluntary Aided school representative required. Governing Bodies be asked to forward their nomination to the clerk to the Schools Forum.

If the nomination process is not conclusive the clerk will progress any necessary election.

- 5.4.8 Since the number of schools converting to Academy status will continue to change there should be an annual review of the proportionality within the membership of the Schools Forum and this should take place after the October pupil census each year.
- 5.4.9 That a clause be inserted in the Schools Forum constitution (**Annex B**) regarding attendance at the Schools Forum meetings stating that, where a member has not been in attendance for four consecutive meetings, the clerk to the Schools Forum should write to the member seeking an explanation. The Schools Forum would reserve the right with the LA to recommend replacing that member where it was felt that it was not possible for the member to provide consistent attendance.
- 5.4.10 That an additional member be added to the Schools Forum to represent Children's Centres. The DfE has confirmed that this is permissible. It should be noted that forthcoming changes to the Schools Forum regulations may mean a reduction in the number of non-schools members (or the removal of this category) and also changes to voting rights. This additional membership category could be reviewed if necessary under future regulations.
- 5.4.11 That the Schools Forum Constitution be reviewed and amended as necessary in the light of any proposals agreed above and circulated to all members of the Forum.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The main legal provisions relating to this report are enshrined within relevant DfE regulations and the Schools Forum constitution (**Annex B**).

Section 151 Officer

- 6.2 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Access Implications

- 6.3 There are no access implications arising from this report.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Not applicable.

Method of Consultation

7.2 Not applicable.

Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers

Annex A: Schools Forum Membership List

Annex B: Schools Forum Constitution

Contact for further information

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