

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
27 February 2013

Schools Forum Constitution and Membership
(Chair of Schools Forum)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Schools Forum members of the current position regarding membership (**Appendix A**) and to seek approval of the revised Schools Forum Constitution (**Appendix B**).

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools Forum notes the current position with regard to membership.
- 2.2 That Schools Forum notes the new requirements in relation to academy representation.
- 2.3 That Schools Forum agrees the appropriate actions to fill the current two vacancies for primary representatives from the maintained sector.
- 2.4 That Schools Forum approves the updated Constitution attached as **Appendix B**.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure appropriate representation across the primary phase it is necessary to take action to fill the current 2 vacancies in membership of the Schools Forum.
- 3.2 The Constitution requires approval having been updated in line with local and national requirements.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The membership of the Schools Forum must represent the range of schools across Slough both academy and maintained. The Schools Forum Regulations 2012 make clear that '*primary schools, secondary schools and Academies must be broadly proportionately represented on the forum, having regard to the total number of pupils registered at them*'. Academies are taken as one group and the balance across phases is a matter for the Academies to decide when electing any new member. This is a change from the past where the Schools Forum has firstly considered phase and then academy and maintained status.

- 5.2** Schools Forum agreed (May 2012) to review the balance in membership annually, after the verified October census figures were available. This review has taken place.
- 5.3** Of the 25,313 pupils in Slough primary and secondary schools, 11,651 are being educated in academies (46% in academies and 54% in maintained schools). Applying this to the total 16 Schools Forum primary and secondary members means that there should be 7 academy members and 9 representing the maintained sector. This is currently the case including vacancies.
- 5.4** Of the 11,651 pupils in academies, 39% are in primary academies and 61% in secondaries. Applying these percentages to the 7 academy members means that there should be 3 primary and 4 secondary academy representatives and this is the current position. The Schools Forum does not therefore need to take any action at this time to elect any further academy members. It should be noted, however, that academies members must be elected to the Schools Forum by the proprietors of the Academies in the Local Authority (LA) area and this will apply for any future elections. At that point it is suggested that the academies be asked to take account of phase balance in electing the representatives.
- 5.5** There are currently 2 vacancies on the Schools Forum for primary maintained schools representatives. These were filled previously by 2 governors, one from a community school and one voluntary controlled. Of the 4 remaining maintained schools members 2 are Headteachers and 2 are governors which suggests that one Headteacher and one governor representative would maintain the balance. However, members may wish to note that of the 3 primary academy members 2 are Headteachers and one is a governor.
- 5.6** Schools Forum is asked to give a view about seeking nominations from the appropriate groups so that the clerk can progress any necessary elections in consultation with the Slough Primary Headteachers group.
- 5.7** The Schools Forum Constitution has been reviewed in the light of changes within the Schools Forum Regulations 2012 as well as local decisions made by the Schools Forum and is attached at **Appendix B**.
- 5.8** Members of the Schools Forum are requested to approve the revised Constitution.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1** The report takes account of The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

- 6.2** There are no specific financial implications arising from the content of this report.

Access Implications

- 6.3** There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Not applicable.

Contact for further information

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