

SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

For Action

For Information

Brief Description of Item (including the purpose / reason for presenting this for consideration by the Forum)

This report provides an update on the School Forum's membership composition.

Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum

The Forum's Conduct of Meetings document and membership arrangements are subject to annual review. Members agreed arrangements for the 2018/ 2019 academic year at the meeting held on 10 July 2018.

Background / Context

Within good practice guidance, the DfE has stressed to authorities that it is essential that Forum membership arrangements keep pace with the changing landscape, in particular the conversion of maintained schools to academy status. The Authority must consider annually how best to provide for responsive arrangements, to ensure the Forum remains representative and to avoid any unintended bias towards any one phase, whilst continuing to ensure stability of membership and effective decision making.

Details of the Item for Consideration

Appendix 1 summarises the current membership of the Schools Forum.

The Authority's calculation confirms that our School and Academy member composition should not be adjusted further at this time; the split of maintained and academies membership is in line with pupil numbers, where the calculation of pupil numbers incorporates a forecast of academy conversions to take place during 2019.

Therefore, of the 27 Schools and Academy members, 14 should continue to be from maintained schools and 13 from academies.

The Authority also does not propose to alter the composition of non-schools members. It is anticipated that review may take place as and when direction comes from the DfE on Schools Forum composition, which is anticipated in the light of national funding formula and the changing role of Schools Forums. The DfE has not yet announced any directed changes in the operation / composition of Schools Forums for 2020/21.

The Local Authority will continue to seek to fill the existing vacancies and also to refresh memberships as set out in the agreed Conduct of Meetings document.

Implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (if any)

No direct implications

Recommendations

The Schools Forum is asked to consider and to note the information provided.

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)

Appendix 1 – Schools Forum Membership July 2019

Contact Officer (name, telephone number and email address)

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