

Review of Proportionality and Membership of Schools Forum

To: Cambridgeshire Schools Forum

Meeting Date: 14 July 2023

From: Tamar Oviatt-Ham – Democratic Services Officer

Purpose:

- To review proportionality on the Forum in relation to the latest data from the January 2023 census data.
- To assess whether any further changes are required regarding Forum seats allocated between the maintained and academies sector.
- To review the current vacancies and appointments identified for re-election and actions required.

Recommendation: Schools Forum is recommended to:

- a) Note and comment on the report.

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1. Background

- 1.1 National regulations govern the composition, constitution and procedures for schools forums and are set out in [The Schools Forum Regulations \(2012\) \(as amended\)](#). The Department for Education (DfE) also publishes and periodically updates the [Schools Forum Operational and Good Practice Guide](#) together with guidance on Schools Forums' structure, powers and responsibilities.
- 1.2. Schools Forums are made up of school members (maintained schools), academies members and non-school members (Post 16 providers and Independent or Voluntary Sector Early Years providers). Schools and academies members must together comprise at least two thirds of the membership of the Forum.
- 1.3 The Regulations state that '...primary schools, secondary schools (that is, maintained schools) and Academies must be broadly proportionately represented on the forum, having regard to the total number of pupils registered at them.' However, the Operational and Good Practice Guide also states that 'The Schools Forum Regulations provide a framework for the appointment of members, but allow a considerable degree of discretion in order to accommodate local priorities and practice.'
- 1.4 Whilst Schools Forum good practice guidance suggests a review is undertaken at every meeting, this is not practicable on what are four year appointments. Forum agreed at the July 2018 meeting that it should receive a report once a year reviewing the proportionality of Forum membership. This would be based on the most up to date pupil numbers provided by the Annual Census, and that if there were any significant changes to the pupil numbers split, to then consider if any further changes should be made to the allocation of seats.

2. Proportionality Review 2023

- 2.1 The figures for 2021, 2022 and the current figures for 2023 can be found below:

- 2.2 2022 figures with 2021 census are:

Total pupils across primary and secondary (maintained) = 27,635 / 33.34% (34.4%)

Total pupils across primary and secondary (academies) = 55,247 / 66.66% (65.6%)

Current figures as at January 2023 census are:

Total pupils across primary and secondary (maintained) = 27,678 / 32.76%

Total pupils across primary and secondary (academies) = 56,807 / 67.24%

Currently there are 7 Maintained Representatives and 13 Academies Representatives
20 members on the board in total

- 2.3 Based on the current figures it is recommended that no further changes to proportionality are required at this present time.

3. Forum Appointments for Review

- 3.2 There are a number of appointments up for re-election as terms of office are coming to an end :

Maintained Appointments x 2

- Sasha Howard - Headteacher, Meldreth Primary School
- Guy Underwood - Headteacher, Great Abington Primary

Academy Appointments x 5

- Susannah Connell - Headteacher, Middlefield Academy and CEO Diamond Learning Partnership Trust
- Adrian Ball - Chief Executive Officer, Diocese of Ely
- Christopher Bennett - Headteacher, St Peter's School, Huntingdon
- John King – Aspire Learning Trust
- Ryan Kelsall - Impington Village College

- 3.3 There is also one vacancy in relation to academy appointments and one vacancy in relation to maintained appointments as the vice chair Paul Stratford has given notice of his resignation from the forum.
- 3.3 The full list of current voting and non- voting representatives can be found at appendix 1
- 3.4 Elections to fill the vacancy and appointments up for review will take place ahead of the November Schools Forum.

Appendix 1 - Current Schools Forum make up (Changes required highlighted in yellow)

Voting Members:

7 Maintained Representatives

3 Maintained Primary Headteachers

- Sasha Howard – Headteacher, Meldreth Primary School (End of 4 year term)
- Nikki Brown Headteacher, Morley Memorial Primary School
- Guy Underwood – Headteacher, Great Abington Primary (End of 4 year term)

1 Maintained Special School Representative

- Joanne Hardwick – Headteacher, Samuel Pepys Maintained Special School, St Neots

1 Maintained Nursery School Representative

- Alex Pearson - Headteacher Homerton Early Years Centre

1 Pupil Referral Unit Representative

- Nadine Gooding-Hebert - Headteacher - Pilgrim Pathways School

1 Maintained School Governor

- Paul Stratford – Chair of Governors, Alderman Payne Primary School (Vice-Chairman)
(Given notice of resignation from forum)

13 Academies Representatives:

1 Academy Primary Representative

- Susannah Connell - Headteacher, Middlefield Academy and CEO Diamond Learning Partnership Trust (End of 4 year term)

1 Academy Special School Representative

- Simon Bainbridge – Executive Headteacher, Highfield Ely Academy

1 Academy Alternative Provision

- Mark Vickers - CEO Olive Academies

General Academy Appointments

- Jon Culpin – Chief Executive Officer of Anglian Learning (Chairman)
- Richard Spencer – Principal, Ely College
- Adrian Ball – Chief Executive Officer, Diocese of Ely (End of 4 year term)
- Christopher Bennett - Headteacher, St Peter's School, Huntingdon (End of 4 year term)
- John King – Aspire Learning Trust (End of 4 year term)
- Ryan Kelsall - Impington Village College (End of 4 year term)
- Duncan Ramsey - CEO Aspire Learning Trust
- Lesley Birch - Executive Principal Cambridge Primary Education Trust
- Carin Taylor - Executive Headteacher Staploe Education Trust

- **Vacancy**

Non-Voting Representatives

1 Representative of the Early Years Reference Group

- Deborah Parfitt – Nursery Manager, Nene Infants and Nursery School

1 Representative of Post 16 FE

- Jeremy Lloyd - Director of Supported Learning, Cambridge Regional College

Observers

1 Representative Diocese of Ely Board of Education

- Canon Andrew Read

1 Representative Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

- Clare Clarke

1 Teacher Union Membership Representative

- Jon Duveen

NonTeacher Union Membership Representative, non-teaching JCNG

- Rob Turner

Cambridgeshire County Council – three appointments made annually by Children and Young People Committee:

- Councillor Bryony Goodliffe
- Councillor Claire Daunton
- Councillor Simone Taylor