

COMPOSITION OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM: UPDATE

To: Cambridgeshire Schools Forum
Date: 17 March 2017
From: Richenda Greenhill, Clerk to Cambridgeshire Schools Forum

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The composition of Schools Forums is currently governed by the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012 and the Schools Forum Operational and Good Practice Guide March 2015. However, it is anticipated that revised guidance on the role and composition of Schools Forums will be issued in the near future as part of central government's wider review of schools' funding arrangements.
- 1.2 The current composition of Cambridgeshire Schools Forum is compliant with the requirements to include representatives of maintained schools and academies including governor representatives, special school, nursery school and pupil referral unit representatives and non-schools members. However, it is recognised that the existing arrangements for the appointment of academies' representatives does not meet the requirement that these members are elected by academy proprietors.
- 1.3 The current appointment arrangements were shared with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) in June 2016 and his assistance sought in identifying the proprietors of academies in the county and obtaining their co-ordinated agreement to which constituent groups' academies representatives should be drawn from and who should elect the academies representatives. The RSC indicated that he was happy to assist, but further substantive work was postponed when it was understood that revised guidance on the nature and role of Schools Forums would be issued in the near future.
- 1.4 Schools Forum is asked to note the position.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The existing 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.
- 2.2 The current composition of the Cambridgeshire Schools Forum is as follows:

Schools' Members:

6 Primary Headteachers
1 Maintained Secondary Headteacher
1 Academy Primary School Headteacher
4 Academy Secondary Representatives
1 Nursery School Representative
1 Special School Headteacher
1 Pupil Referral Unit Representative
4 Governor Representatives
1 Academy Special School Representative
1 Academy Alternative Provision Representative

Non-School Members:

- 1 Early Years Reference Group Representative
- 1 Post 16 Further Education Representative

23 voting members

Observers (non-voting):

- 1 Representative from the Diocesan Board of Education
- 1 Representative from the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia
- 1 Representative from the union membership of the teachers' JCNG group
- 1 Representative from the union membership of the non-teaching JCNG group
- 3 Elected Members appointed by the Children and Young People Policy and Service Committee

7 non-voting members

- 2.3 Cambridgeshire County Council remains committed to complying with the Regulations and good practice guidance relating to all aspects of the operation of the Schools Forum, and the delay in revising the arrangements for appointing academies' representatives is regrettable. However, in view of the expectation that revised guidance will now be issued in the very near future it is proposed that further detailed work on the composition of the Cambridgeshire Schools Forum should await that advice.

3.0 ACTION

- 3.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the position.