

Update on Schools Forum's Membership

To: Cambridgeshire Schools Forum

Date: 16TH December 2020

From: Rob Sanderson Democratic Services Officer:

email: Rob.sanderson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Telephone 01223 699181

Purpose: This report updates Forum on the current membership position

Recommendation:

Schools Forum is recommended to:

note the current position on vacancies on Schools Forum.

1. Background

- 1.1. As there have been a number of changes to Schools Forum as a result of resignations and the death of the former Vice Chairman, this paper updates Forum on the current status of the membership and the actions to be taken over the next few months.

2. Current position

- 2.1 Set out in the Appendix to this report is the current Forum membership, including details of the four Academy vacancies. Jon Lewis will provide an oral update at the meeting on whether under the Covid restrictions it has been possible to make any progress regarding the required elections process to appoint new members.
- 2.2 Regarding the size of Forum, the July 2019 Forum meeting was informed that as a result of the opening of a new maintained secondary school in Northstowe, it was necessary to increase the Forum size from 22 to 23 voting members to accommodate representation from the maintained secondary sector. While this sector had been represented in the past, by 2019 there were no seats allocated, as all secondary maintained schools had some time before converted to academy status. As there is no longer a secondary school maintained presence, this seat can be removed again. It is not recommended to keep the size at 23 as even at 22 voting members Forum is already a very large meeting when the non-voting observer members are also included, and when held in a physical setting, it has been difficult to accommodate the membership and officers in the rooms available. At Shire Hall only the KV Room, (the biggest Committee room) and the Council Chamber are large enough. In addition, even when some members have been absent, KV room has often been very cramped. One of the advantages of holding meetings virtually has been that there are no physical constraints. Other advantages has been that attendance has been at almost 100% and Members have not been required to travel to Cambridge from other areas of the County, helping reduce the carbon footprint and thereby having more time to undertake other, more productive activities.
- 2.3 Forum is required by the regulations to regularly review its membership to ensure there is the appropriate level of representation from the maintained and academy sectors and this is required to be based on pupil numbers. The July 2018 Forum meeting agreed that there should be an annual report reviewing overall Forum membership. As the last review was in

July this year, the intention is to undertake the next full review in July 2021, taking account of the most up to date pupil census information, to establish whether any further changes are required regarding the proportion of Forum voting places allocated between the maintained and academies sector.

Source Documents: July 2018 and July 2019 Reports and Minutes

Location Room 117 Shire Hall. Cambridge

https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccclive/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/22/Default.aspx