

Review of Proportionality and Membership of Schools Forum

To: Schools Forum

Meeting Date: 16 July 2021

From: Tamar Oviatt-Ham – Democratic Services Officer

Purpose: To review proportionality on the Forum in relation to the latest data from the January 2021 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 actions required to fill the vacancies.

Recommendation: Schools Forum is recommended to:

- a) Note and comment on the current 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 2021

- 2.1 The figures for 2019, 2020 and the current figures for 2021 can be found below:

2020 figures with 2019 % in brackets
Total pupils across primary and secondary (maintained): 28804 / 35% (40%)
Total pupils across primary and secondary (academies): 52644 / 65% (60%)
- 2.2 Current figures as at January 2021 are:
Total pupils across primary and secondary (maintained) = 28,175 / 34.4%
Total pupils across primary and secondary (academies) = 53,762 / 65.6%
- 2.3 Based on the current figures it is recommended that no further changes to proportionality are required at this present time.

3. Forum Vacancies

- 3.1 The current vacancies on Schools Forum are listed below:
 - 1 Academy Alternative Provision
 - 1 New Member required from Anglian Learning

- 1 New Member required from the Morris Trust
- 1 Other Academy Appointment

3.2 Following the local authority election in May 2021 three appointees to the forum have been made by the Children and Young Persons Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council. The three appointees are:

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

3.3 The full list of current voting and non- voting representatives can be found at appendix 1

3.4 Forum will note that there have been delays in addressing the vacancies on the forum due to the ongoing Covid Pandemic. The Chairman and the Director of Education endeavour to take this action forward in the Autumn term, taking into account the need for more ethnic diversity on the forum, through the election process, and adopting the proposals outlined in appendix 2 of the report for future Academy membership of Schools Forum. These proposals were taken to the CCEON meeting on 25th March 2021, with views sought ahead of the Schools Forum meeting.

Appendix 1 - Current Schools Forum make up

Voting Members:

7 Maintained Representatives

3 Maintained Primary Headteachers

- Sasha Howard – Headteacher, Meldreth Primary School
- Liz Bassett – Headteacher, Ely St Johns Primary School
- Guy Underwood – Headteacher, Great Abington Primary

1 Maintained Special School Representative

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

1 Maintained Nursery School Representative

- Claire Palmer – Headteacher, Huntingdon Nursery School

1 Pupil Referral Unit Representative

- Leah Miller - Headteacher, Pilgrim Pathways School

1 Maintained School Governor

- Paul Stratford – Chair of Governors, Alderman Payne Primary School (Vice-Chairman)

13 Academies Representatives:

1 Academy Primary Representative

- Susannah Connell - Headteacher, Middlefield Academy and CEO Diamond Learning Partnership Trust

1 Academy Special School Representative

- Simon Bainbridge – Executive Headteacher, Highfield Ely Academy

1 Academy Alternative Provision – VACANT

1 New Member required from Anglian Learning – VACANT

1 New Member required from the Morris Trust – VACANT

Other Academy Appointments confirmed at Forum December 2018

- Jon Culpin – Chief Executive Officer of Anglian Learning (Chairman)
- Richard Spencer – Principal, Ely College
- Patsy Peres – Principal, Ramsey Spinning Infant and Ramsey Junior
- Adrian Ball – Chief Executive Officer, Diocese of Ely
- Christopher Bennett - Headteacher, St Peter's School, Huntingdon
- John King – Sir Harry Smith Community College
- Ryan Kelsall – Impington Village College

1 Other Academy Appointment - VACANT

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

- Joe Mc Crossan - Head of St Albans School Cambridge

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