



## SCHOOLS FORUM

### Revised Membership of the Leicestershire Schools Forum

June 20 2013

Content Applicable to;		School Phase;	
Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools	X	Pre School	X
Academies	X	Foundation Stage	X
PVI Settings	X	Primary	X
Special Schools / Academies	X	Secondary	X
Local Authority	X	Post 16	X
		High Needs	

#### Purpose of Report

Content Requires;		By;	
Noting	X	Maintained Primary School Members	
Decision	X	Maintained Secondary School Members	
		Maintained Special School Members	
		Academy Members	
		All Schools Forum	X

1. This report presents the Local Authority's proposals for the membership of the Schools Forum From October 2013.

#### Recommendations

2. That Schools Forum notes the revised membership numbers to reflect the current proportionality of pupils within each school phase
3. That Academy Members consider their membership and election process and inform the local authority of their intentions by the end of the summer term.

#### Introduction

4. The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 require that Schools Forum be split between school, academy and non-schools members and that membership be proportionate to the pupils within each of these groups. As the result of schools

moving to academy status this requires an annual review of membership with the number of pupils within each school phase.

### **Background**

5. At the meeting of the County Council's Cabinet on 26 July 2011 the Director of Children and Young People's Service, in conjunction with the Cabinet Lead Member, was authorised to effect the changes in the proportionality of Schools Forum membership at the commencement of each academic year.
6. Membership of Schools Forum was amended in September 2012 which reflected the appropriate Forum membership and also the changes required to reflect schools funding reform.
7. The Department for Education (DfE) are also effecting changes to the Schools Forum regulations requiring membership from the Post 16 education sector. It would appear appropriate that this change is effected at the same time as the proportionality changes.

### **Current Constitution**

8. In determining the correct proportion of membership pupils in academies and in those schools converted, in the process of conversion and those consulting on conversion have all been taken into account in redefining membership which will be relevant to September 2014.
9. Whilst representation is by the number of pupils in each school phase there are some exceptions within the revised membership;
  - Maintained Secondary schools – although the number of pupils by calculation does not generate a place, this phase must be represented. Maintained secondary schools will be approached by the local authority to nominate their member which may be a governor or a headteacher.
  - Special schools – maintained schools and academies must be represented, with one member each the local authority will approach special schools for them to nominate their representative which may be a headteacher or a governor.

To ensure all school stakeholders are represented the 2013 membership is increased by one.

10. Taking into account pupil numbers and the Schools Forum regulations the current 2013 membership is detailed in the following table;

<b>Membership Group</b>	<b>Current Membership</b>	<b>Revised Membership</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b><u>Elected Schools Members (including academies)</u></b>			
Maintained School Governors - Primary	2	2	0
Maintained School Headteachers - Primary	5	4	-1

Academy Headteachers or Governors - Primary	2	4	+2
Maintained School Headteacher - Secondary	1	}	
Maintained School Governor – Secondary	1		1
Academy Representatives – Secondary	7	8	+1
Maintained School - Headteacher / Governor - Special	1	1	0
Academy Representative – Special	1	1	0
<b><u>Appointed Non School Members</u></b>			
Catholic Diocese	1	1	0
Church of England Diocese	1	1	0
Early Years PVI provider	1	1	0
Pupil Referral Unit	1	1	0
Trade Union	1	1	0
Post 16 Provider	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>+1</b>

11. In line with the current constitution the Association of Leicestershire Governors will be approached to operate the election for primary governors and the Leicestershire Primary Heads for the maintained primary headteacher representatives.
12. Much discussion surrounded the local authorities 2012 proposals not to distinguish between headteachers and governors in the academy membership. The local authorities view was that this decision is appropriately vested with academies but in making that decision be attention should be paid to having a balanced representation on the group overall and that all stakeholders are represented, governors are a significant stakeholder.
13. A letter has been received from the Association of Leicestershire Governors (ALG), shown as App 1, raising the issue of academy governor representation and the importance of having governor representatives from academies. The letter positions ALG as the appropriate body to undertake governor elections in academies. The letter also expresses concerns on the process for seeking academy membership and whether academies sought nominations or undertook an election process for the current membership, it should be noted that the constitution does not state that academy members will be elected by ALG but by academies.

14. The local authority remains of the view that a decision on academy membership is for academies to determine and will amend the constitution according to the view expressed by academies.
15. Due to timescales academy members were largely appointed however, in terms of election process Schools Forum regulation 6 (1) states that;  
*'Academies members must be elected to the schools forum by the proprietors of the academies in the authority's area'*.  
There is no definition on 'proprietor' in the regulations, it can be viewed that this term is defining a member of the Academy Trust or a member of the governing body. The local authority will write to academy contacts in all school phases to make them aware of the need to consider how their interests are represented.
16. Academy members should consider the comments raised by ALG and determine firstly whether there should be a recognised split between headteachers and governors and secondly whether any governor election should be operated by ALG. Academies should inform the local authority of their intentions over membership and the process to elect members by the end of the summer term. It should be noted that under regulation 4 (3) if an election does not take place by a date set by the local authority, the authority is required to appoint academies members to the Schools Forum, this date is July 12<sup>th</sup>.
17. Should academies determine that they wish for governor representation an election process could be administered by ALG as reflected in their letter, by academies or could be facilitated through the local authority if no other process is in place.
18. For academy headteacher representatives the local authority will approach Leicestershire primary and secondary head groups to operate the appropriate elections.

### **Resource Implications**

19. There are no direct resource implications arising from this report. It should be noted that the administration costs of maintaining the Schools Forum may increase if the number of elected groups increases and / or the local authority is required to undertake membership elections.

### **Equal Opportunity Issues**

20. There are no equal opportunities issues arising from this report.

### **Background Papers**

Schools Forum, 4 December 2012 – Schools Forum Constitution  
Cabinet, 26 July 2012 – Schools Forum Constitution

### **Officers to Contact**

Jenny Lawrence, Finance Business Partner – CYPS  
Email: [Jenny.lawrence@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Jenny.lawrence@leics.gov.uk)  
Tel; 0116 305 6401