



Schools Forum

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Venue: Shrewsbury Training
and Development
Centre

Item

Public

Paper

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SHROPSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM CONSTITUTION

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Summary

At their meeting on 7 November 2013, Schools Forum approved the constitutional arrangements for the annual re-apportionment of membership to take account of the changing mix between maintained and academy schools. This report details the required re-apportionment from April 2018 based on the academy conversions up to October 2017.

Recommendation

To approve the re-apportionment of Schools Forum membership from April 2018.

REPORT

Membership

1. All local authority School Forums are constituted in accordance with the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012. Shropshire Schools Forum approved the current Constitution at their meeting on 13 September 2012, with the new Constitution becoming operational from 1 October 2012.
2. At their meeting on 7 November 2013, Schools Forum received a report on a document from the then Education Funding Agency (EFA) - now Education, Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) - which referenced a requirement for regular reviews of Forum membership to take account of the pace of academy conversions and to ensure that membership remains proportionate (based on pupil numbers).

3. Following a report to School Forum on 2 February 2017, the following membership structure was approved to operate from 1 April 2017: 9 primary (5 headteachers, 4 governors), 3 secondary (2 headteachers, 1 governor), 7 academy (4 headteachers, 3 governors), 1 special school place and 1 pupil referral unit place (PRU). The special school and PRU places are not included in the apportionment calculation. The membership as at 1 January 2018 is attached.
4. In the November 2013 report Schools Forum agreed that a re-apportionment of membership should take place annually, from 1 April, using the pupil numbers from the previous October's school census.
5. In order to model the position from April 2018, the school census information from October 2017, and based on the number of academies as at 1 October 2017, has been used to assess the impact on representation. The table below summarises the revised representation (noting that 19 school places are apportioned by excluding special and PRU members).

	Oct. 2017 NOR*	Apportionment	
Maintained Primary Schools	15,798	43.2%	8
Maintained Secondary Schools	5,227	14.3%	3
Academies (as at 1 October 2017)	15,547	42.5%	8
	36,572	100.0%	19

** excluding pupils in special schools and PRUs*

6. The analysis indicates that from April 2018 there will need to be a reduction from 9 to 8 maintained primary representatives, and an increase from 7 to 8 academy representatives. The academy pupil numbers are split, 32% primary and 68% secondary, which breaks down as 3 primary academy representatives and 5 secondary academy representatives.
7. The additional academy place could be allocated to a primary phase academy representative based on this analysis. However, it is noted that the majority of academies are in mixed phase multi-academy trusts (MATs) and so the phase representation is not particularly relevant, though consideration might be given to drawing membership from MATs operating mainly in the primary phase.
8. The EFA guidelines stipulate that the academy representation can be drawn from free schools in the local authority area. Equally consideration will need to be given to the balance of headteacher and governor representation in each of the constituent groups. There are currently no academy governor representatives on Forum, though an officer from a MAT is now on Schools Forum. There are currently 2 vacancies for academy representatives.
9. The reduction from 9 to 8 members from primary maintained schools will need managing. Precedent would suggest that this membership should be made up of 4 headteachers and 4 governors. There are currently 2 vacancies for primary maintained school governor representatives. It is proposed that the governor vacancies are recruited for.

10. In respect of secondary maintained school representation, one of the headteacher members will become part of a MAT in the next financial year, and so there will be a vacancy. There is currently a vacancy for a governor from a secondary maintained school – in fact this position has not been filled for over a year. Representation from the secondary maintained phase which will become more of an issue as there will only be 3 maintained secondary schools later in the year following the latest round of academy conversion approvals.
11. While the local authority will support the constituent groups through the facilitation and management of, for example, election processes, the responsibility for determining how nominations will be sought, the mix between headteachers and governors, and the balance of representation between phases and/or size of school, must rest with the constituent groups.