



Schools Forum

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Venue: Shrewsbury Training
and Development
Centre

Item

Paper

Public

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 2019 based on the academy conversions up to October 2018.

Recommendation

To approve the re-apportionment of Schools Forum membership from April 2019.

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 and Skills 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 18 January 2018, the following membership structure was approved to operate from 1 April 2018: 8 primary (4 headteachers, 4 governors), 3 secondary (2 headteachers, 1 governor), 8 academy, 1 special school place and 1 pupil referral unit place (PRU). The special school and PRU places are not included in the apportionment calculation.
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 2019, the school census information from October 2018, and based on the number of academies as at 1 October 2018, 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. 2018 NOR*	Apportionment	
Maintained Primary Schools	12,955	35.3%	7
Maintained Secondary Schools	5,140	14.0%	2
Academies (as at 1 October 2018)	18,593	50.7%	10
	36,688	100.0%	19

** excluding pupils in special schools and PRUs*

6. The analysis indicates that from April 2019 there will need to be a reduction from 8 to 7 maintained primary representatives, a reduction from 3 to 2 maintained secondary representatives, and an increase from 8 to 10 academy representatives. The membership as at 1 April 2019 is attached.
7. The academy pupil numbers are split, 42% primary and 58% secondary, which breaks down as 4 primary academy representatives and 6 secondary academy representatives. 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 increased membership from MATs operating mainly in the primary phase. The membership as at 1 April 2019 assumes that an existing secondary maintained headteacher representative will become an academy member when his school converts in January 2019.
8. The ESFA 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. The remodelling of membership indicates there are 2 vacancies for academy representatives from April 2019.
9. The reduction from 8 to 7 members from primary maintained schools will need managing. Precedent would suggest that this membership should be made up of 4 headteachers and 3 governors. The appended projected membership indicates that the primary maintained representation is in place for April 2019.

10. In respect of secondary maintained school representation, membership will reduce from 3 to 2 from April 2019 and, in line with previous practice, would be made up of a headteacher and a governor representative. While the headteacher member is in place, there is currently a vacancy for a governor from a secondary maintained school and has been for over a year. With only 2 maintained secondary schools likely to remain from April, the options for recruitment are limited.
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.