

6 February 2020

**Item 9**

**TITLE OF REPORT: School Forum Constitution**

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**Purpose of the Report**

To request the Schools Forum to change the current Schools Forum Constitution and representation, and to recruit a secondary maintained school governor to the Schools Forum.

**Background**

Schools Forums were originally created following legislation in 2002 and their remit was to have a consultative role in relation to the local distribution of school funding.

The regulations have been amended several times since 2002 to give Schools Forums greater powers.

Regulations state that all sectors should be represented and where possible that representation should be proportional. This includes academies as recouperment academies have their funding calculated using the LA's fair funding formula's (mainstream, special, PRU and early years).

The requirement is consistent in that all sectors and phases must be represented if there are any such schools in an authority's area.

**22 representative memberships are as follows: -**

**School members** (must be at least 2/3 of members)

6 Primary School Head teachers  
2 Primary School Governors  
(with no more than 2 of these 8 members from voluntary aided schools)

4 Secondary School Head teachers  
1 Secondary School Governor (Academy)  
(with no more than 1 of these 5 members from voluntary aided schools)

1 Nursery School Head teacher  
1 Special School Head teacher  
1 Special School Governor  
1 Pupil Referral Unit Head teacher

**Non-school members** (no greater than 1/3)

1 RC diocesan

- 1 Trade Union
- 1 non-executive elected member
- 1 Early Years representative
- 1 14-19 representative (must not be a school)

The current proportion of academy students is 34% (excluding post 16), which equates to approximately 6.08 school members. The current academy membership is 7 which is slightly more than proportional.

The current phase representation is broadly in line with that suggested by pupil proportions, and the over representations are accounted for by the requirement for whole numbers of members and to have all sectors to be represented.

Schools Forum Operational and Good Practice guide states that there must be at least one head teacher and one governor among the school's members, and that there should be no built in bias. This provides flexibility within the guidance to enable the constitution and representation to be amended.

## **Proposal**

That Schools Forum considers the changing the constitution of Schools Forum to enable the creation of a maintained secondary school governor representative and that School Governor support is requested to recruit a maintained secondary school governor.

### **23 representative memberships are as follows: -**

#### **School members** (at least 2/3 – of members)

6 Primary School Head teachers  
2 Primary School Governors  
(with no more than 2 of these 8 members from voluntary aided schools)

4 Secondary School Head teachers  
1 Secondary School Governor (Academy)  
1 secondary School Governor (Maintained)  
(with no more than 1 of these 6 members from voluntary aided schools)

1 Nursery School Head teacher  
1 Special School Head teacher  
1 Special School Governor  
1 Pupil Referral Unit Head teacher

#### **Non-school members** (no greater than 1/3)

1 RC diocesan  
1 Trade Union  
1 non-executive elected member  
1 Early Years representative  
1 14-19 representative (must not be a school)

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Schools Forum

- Agrees to the proposed change in the Schools Forum constitution
- Requests School Governor Support to try and recruit a secondary maintained school governor

## **For the following reason(s):**

- (i) To ensure that Gateshead Schools Forum Constitution is relevant
- (ii) And all schools have appropriate representation at Schools Forum

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