

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Schools Forum**

**13 July 2012**

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**Subject: Schools Forum Composition and membership**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To amend the current composition and constitution of the Wiltshire Schools Forum and its membership.
2. To bring the Schools Forum in line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance.

#### **Background**

3. The Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2010 (Statutory Instrument No 344/2010) revokes and replaces the Schools Forum (England) Regulations (2002), as amended, with a few changes principally relating to the membership of Schools Forums.
4. The regulations are made under Section 47A and 138(7) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
5. The draft regulations for 2012 are currently subject to consultation and propose the following amendments for 2013-14:
  - a. Remove the requirement to have a minimum of 15 people on the Forum;
  - b. Limit the number of other local authority attendees from participating in meetings unless they are a Lead Member, a Director of Children's Services (or their representative), Chief Financial Officer (or their representative), or are providing specific financial or technical advice (including presenting a paper to the Forum) (regulation 8(3));
  - c. Restrict the voting arrangements by allowing only schools members and the private, voluntary and independent members to vote on the funding formulae (regulation 8(11)). In addition draft regulation 8(12) will cover the items which will be subject to de-delegation by restricting voting to those affected;
  - d. Require local authorities to publish Forum papers, minutes and decisions promptly on their websites (regulation 8(13)); and,
  - e. Require Forums to hold public meetings – as is the case with other council committees (regulation 8(1)).
6. The Education Funding Agency has been given observer status at Schools Forum meeting.

7. The Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2010 (Statutory Instrument No 344/2010 states that primary schools, secondary schools and Academies must be broadly proportionately represented on the forum, having regard to the total number of pupils registered. This requirement remains within the draft 2012 regulations and the Operational Guidance for Local Authorities on 2013-14 revenue funding arrangements confirms that “Authorities should, therefore, ensure that the composition of their schools forum is compliant with the requirements in the existing regulations on proportionality and reflects the pupil numbers expected to be in each category at 1 September 2012.”

### **Membership and Composition**

8. It is necessary to re-examine the composition of the forum in light of the number of schools in Wiltshire which have, or intend to convert to academy status.
9. Wiltshire has 26 academies to date, 17 secondary schools and 9 primary schools.
10. The expected total number of pupils registered for 2012-13 is 60,188 (estimate for September 2012). This is broken down to:

Primary schools – 32012 (53%)  
 Secondary Schools – 7034 (12%)  
 Academies (secondary) – 18349 (30%)  
 Academies (primary) – 2793 (5%)

11. The current membership of the Forum is as follows:

<b>Type</b>		<b>Nominated by</b>	<b>Postholder</b>
<b>Schools Members</b>	<b>Teachers</b>	4 x primary headteachers	PHF
			Mr N Baker (Chairman) Mrs Julia Bird Mr A Bridewell Mrs C Williamson
		3 x secondary headteachers	WASSH
			Mr T Gilson Mr M Watson Mrs Carol Grant
		1 x Special school headteacher	WASSH
			Mrs I Lancaster-Gaye
		1 x Academies Rep.	Academy Schools in Wiltshire
			Mr David Cowley

	<b>Governors</b>	2 x primary governors	<i>Wiltshire Governors Association</i>	John Foster (primary) Ann Ferries (primary) (Vice-Chairman)
		1 x secondary governor	<i>Wiltshire Governors Association</i>	Dr Peter Biggs (secondary)
		1 x governor for special needs	<i>Wiltshire Governors Association</i>	Rev A Kemp (SEN)
	<b>Non-School Members</b>	Early Years PVI Sector representative	Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership	Mr J Proctor
		Teacher representative	Joint Consultative Committee	Mr J Hawkins
		Diocesan Representative	Dioceses	Mrs J Franchi
		Representative of maintained schools with nursery classes	Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership	Michael Keeling
		14 – 19 representative	13-19 Strategy group	Dr Tina Pagett
<b>Observers</b>		Parent Partnership representative	Ask	Miss S Lund
		3 x parent governor representatives	Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	Neal Owen, Rosheen Ryan,
		Cabinet members: Education and Youth Children and Families	Leader of the Council	Cllr Alan Macrae Cllr Lionel Grundy

12. It is proposed that, based on expected pupil numbers at September 2012, the composition of three categories within the Forum's school members be changed as detailed below:

4 x primary headteachers (as existing)  
 1 secondary headteacher (vacancy to be filled)  
 3 x academy representatives (filled by the existing secondary headteachers)

### Terms of reference

13. The current constitution of the Wiltshire Schools Forum has, following endorsement by this Forum, been approved by the Cabinet Member for

Children's Services through the delegated decision process, and any change to the constitution will require similar approval.

14. It is proposed that section 2.2 of the constitution of the Wiltshire Schools Forum be amended to read:

The majority of forum members are "schools members". There are:

- 6 elected Headteacher representatives (1 secondary, 4 primary and 1 special);
- 3 Academy representatives; and
- 4 elected governor representatives (1 secondary, 2 primary and 1 school with special provision).

These 13 members, along with the Early Years private, voluntary and independent representative are the only members allowed to vote on the funding formula.

There are 2 other nominated service partner representatives (1 from the Dioceses and 1 teacher representative) who both have one vote. These are the 16 voting members.

In addition to voting members there are 6 observers, 1 each from the 13-19 Strategic Partnership and ASK, 3 elected governor representatives from the Council's Children Select Committee are also invited as observers ex officio and the Education Funding Agency has observer status.

### **Environmental and climate change considerations**

15. None.

### **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

16. The Forum has an explicit duty to have regard to the duties placed on Local Education Authorities and school governors by the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the Race Relations Act 1976. The Forum will note the DfE view that the Human Rights Act 1998 applies.

### **Financial Implications**

17. None

### **Legal Implications**

18. This report focuses on the Schools Forum regulations and the associated constitution of the Wiltshire Schools Forum.

### **Proposals**

19. That the Cabinet member for Children's Services on behalf of Cabinet;
- a. accept the change in three categories within the Forum's school members as detailed below and which reflect expected pupil

numbers in September 2012:

4 x primary headteachers (as existing)  
1 x secondary headteacher (vacancy to be filled)  
3x academy representatives (existing secondary headteachers)

- b. Approve that section 2.2 of Schools Forum terms of reference be amended to read:

The majority of forum members are “schools members”. There are:

- 6 elected Headteacher representatives (1 secondary, 4 primary and 1 special);
- 3 Academy representatives; and
- 4 elected governor representatives (1 secondary, 2 primary and 1 school with special provision).

These 13 members, along with the Early Years private, voluntary and independent representative are the only members allowed to vote on the funding formula.

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### **\*Reason for Proposal**

20. To bring the Schools Forum in line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance and relevant legislation.

**Carolyn Godfrey**

**Corporate Director  
Children & Education**

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Report Author:

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June 2012

## **Background Papers**

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

1. Wiltshire Schools Forum - Terms of Reference
2. Schools Funding Reform: Next Steps towards a fairer system - DfE consultation March 2012
3. Expected Pupil numbers September 2012.xls