

Open Report on behalf of David O'Connor, Assistant Chief Executive

Report to:	Schools' Forum
Date:	13 October 2010
Subject:	Schools' Forums (England) Regulations 2010

Summary:

To consider the implications of the Schools' Forums (England) Regulations 2010 particularly the effect of the establishment of Academies on the membership of the Schools' Forum.

Recommendation(s):

That the Local Authority be recommended:-

(a) to maintain the current number of school members on the Schools' Forum, currently 23.

(b) that the membership of the Schools' Forum be amended to reflect that Primary, Secondary and Academies must be broadly proportionately represented on the Forum, having regard to the total number of pupils registered at them.

Background

The School Forums (England) Regulations 2010 came into force on 1 April 2010 and there is requirement that if there are any Academies in a local authority's area at least one Academies member shall be a member of their Schools' Forum.

Primary, Secondary and Academies must be broadly proportionately represented on the Forum, having regard to the total number of pupils registered at them.

There are currently the following Academies in existence:-

Priory LSST Academy
Priory Witham Academy
Priory City Academy
Trent Valley Academy
Sleaford St Georges Academy
Skegness St Clements
Old Leake The Giles
Ruskin Academy (Central and Church)

Potential new Academies from 1 November 2010 are as follows:

Branston C C
Caistor Grammar
Welton Wm Farr
West Grantham (St Hughs & Corby
Glen,
+Spittlegate & Earl of Dysart)
Bourne Abbey

Following the election of the new coalition government in June 2010 the number of Academies is expected to increase.

It is considered that until the precise number of Academies is known then it is not possible to work out their precise representation on the Forum.

The current breakdown of the membership of the Forum is:-

3. Composition

Size of Forum: 28

Composition of the Schools' Forum

Groups

(a) School Members (voting) - 23

1 guaranteed place for representative of maintained Nursery schools
3 guaranteed places for maintained Primary school Governors being those with the highest number of votes in this category, and similarly
3 guaranteed places for maintained Primary school Headteachers,
3 guaranteed places for maintained Secondary school Governors,
3 guaranteed places for maintained Secondary school Headteachers, with the balance (i.e. 8 places) being filled by those governors or Headteachers with the next highest votes so that the final ratio of primary to secondary school members is in the nearest integer ratio of the number of pupils in the two sectors.
2 guaranteed places for Special schools, (one Governor and one Headteacher)

(b) Non-Schools Members (voting except *) - 4

1 place for the faith groups to be an agreed nominee from the local Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist dioceses

- 1 place for the staff trades unions to be an agreed nominee from the recognised Teacher and Headteacher unions and UNISON
- 1 place for 14-19 partnerships
- 1 place for private, voluntary and independent early years providers of the free entitlement to early years education

(The Executive Councillor(s) with responsibility for education are invited to Meetings of the Forum as observers with speaking rights but having no voting rights).

There are clearly several combinations of possibilities for the Forum and its operation but it does need to be of manageable size but large enough to be representative of Governors and Headteachers and simplicity of categories of school membership so that the election process can be transparent.

Conclusion

Therefore, it is recommended that the number of “School Members” remains at 23 and Primary, Secondary and Academies schools be proportionately represented on the Forum, having regard to the total number of pupils registered at them.

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
The Schools' Forum (England) Regulations 2010	Democratic Services

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