



Walsall Council

Walsall Children's Services

Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 8th July 2014

Subject: Schools Forum Membership

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Purpose of the report: To ensure that Schools Forum membership complies with Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 and that members and stakeholders feel that membership is fit for purpose

Recommendation: **See final section**

1. Background

1.1 The Schools Forum Regulations 2012 state, “An authority may determine that the number of members representing schools in a particular school category must be broadly proportionate to the total number of schools in that category when compared with the total number of schools.”

1.2 Legal advice has not been sought on the phrase ‘may’ but Walsall Schools Forum has been operating on the basis that membership is split on the basis of pupil numbers in each group from Reception to Year 11. The split is between the defined groups of maintained secondary, maintained primary and academy. The split is also analysed on a primary and secondary basis.

1.3 With Primary, Nursery and Special Forum and WASH electing members to attend Schools Forum in September and a Chair elected in September, it has been viewed as logical that a membership review would need to take place in July 2014 to be implemented in September.

2. Primary, Secondary and Academy membership

2.1 As detailed in Section 1 membership should be broadly proportionate to pupil numbers. The following 3 tables analyse pupil numbers in slightly different ways. **Table 1** is the table in line with School Forum Regulations. **Table 2** breaks academies into primary and secondary phases. **Table 3** does not differentiate between maintained and academies and looks only at phase.

Table 1

Oct 2013 Census	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Academies	Total
Pupil Numbers	20,463	3,688	16,377	40,528
% Pupil Population	50.5%	9.1%	40.4%	100%
Proposed Membership	8	2	7	17
Current Membership	8	2	7	17

Table 2

Oct 2013 Census	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Primary Academies	Secondary Academies	Total
Pupil Numbers	20,463	3,688	3,609	12,768	40,528
% Pupil Population	50.5%	9.1%	8.9%	31.5%	100%
Proposed membership	8	2	2	5	17
Current Membership	8	2	2		17

Table 3

Oct 2012 Census	Primary	Secondary	Total
Pupil Numbers	24,072	16,456	40,528
% Pupil Population	59.4%	40.6%	100%
Proposed membership	10	7	17
Current membership	10	7	17

2.2 Based on continuing with 17 members, the optimum split which would be fair under not only DfE regs but based on all 3 tables is in line with current membership.

2.3 Clearly if there was a decision to alter the total number of members, then that would alter the various splits outlined.

2.4 Obviously if there is further academy conversion the numbers will once again change.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Walsall Schools Forum notes that no change in schools membership is required and no change in non-schools membership is proposed.

3.2 That membership will next be reviewed in July 2015