



Walsall Council

Schools Forum

Wednesday 5 December, 2018

Review of Schools Forum Membership

1 Purpose of Report

To seek approval to increase the membership of the Schools Forum to accommodate a representative from The Ladder - an Alternative Provision Free School.

2 Recommendations

That, at such time that the Ladder School formally opens, Schools Forum:-

- i. Increase the membership of the Schools Forum by one to accommodate a representative from the Ladder School;
- ii. Request that the Clerk contact the proprietor body of the Ladder School to submit its nominee to join Schools Forum for a four-year period.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Authority has been advised that an alternative provision free school known as The Ladder is scheduled to open in January, 2019. There are no other schools within the Borough from this category.
- 3.2 The *Schools Forum Operational and Good Practice Guide (2017)* issued by the Educations & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is clear that the membership structure of the Schools Forum should ensure that there is sufficient representation of each type of schools member in each group to ensure that debate within the schools forum is balanced and representative.
- 3.3 In addition, on 29 September, 2017, the EFSA released an updated '*Operational and good practice guide, September 2017*', which instructed that where a local authority has an alternative provision academy or free school, its Schools Forum must have a representative from that sector and that their proprietor body must select the person who will represent them.
- 4.3 Subject to approval by the Schools Forum to increase the size of the Forum to accommodate a representative, the Clerk shall contact the proprietor body to notify them of the opportunity to nominate a person to join Schools Forum and seek a nomination.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 None.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 Based on the recommended membership published by the EFA that there must be one member for alternative provision academies, including free schools.

7.0 School Improvement

7.1 There are no issues directly arising from this report.

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