

Walsall Children's Services

Schools Forum

Tuesday 19th September 2017

Schools Forum Membership

1 Purpose of Report

To ensure that Schools Forum membership complies with Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012 and that members and stakeholders feel that membership is fit for purpose.

2 Recommendations

2.1 It is proposed that the Schools Forum membership is changed as follows:

- The number of maintained secondary school representatives is reduced to 1;
- The number of secondary school academy representatives is increased to 6

The recommended changes are necessary to reflect a decrease in the proportion of pupils attending maintained secondary schools and respective increase in the proportion of pupils attending secondary academies at the date of the May 2017 school census.

2.2 That membership will next be reviewed in July 2018.

3 Background

3.1 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."

3.2 Legal advice has not been sought with regards to the word 'may' but Walsall Schools Forum has been operating on the principle 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.

- 3.3 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 and be implemented in September.

4 Proposal – Primary, Secondary and Academy Membership

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

Table 1

May 2017 School Census	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Academies	Total
Pupil Numbers	20189	3137	20016	43342
% of Population	46.58%	7.24%	46.18%	100%
Proposed Membership	8	1	8	17
Current Membership	8	2	7	17

Table 2

May 2017 School Census	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Primary Academies	Secondary Academies	Total
Pupil Numbers	20189	3137	6144	13872	43342
% of Population	46.58%	7.24%	14.18%	32.0%	100%

Proposed Membership	8	1	2	6	17
Current Membership	8	2	2	5	17

Table 3

May 2017 School Census	Primary	Secondary	Total
Pupil Numbers	26333	17009	43342
% of Population	60.76%	39.24%	100%
Proposed Membership	10	7	17
Current Membership	10	7	17

- 4.2 Based on continuing with 17 members, the optimum split which would be fair not only under DfE regulations, but based on all three tables is in line with the proposed changes to secondary school representation on the forum.
- 4.3 Clearly if there was a decision to alter the total number of members that would alter the various splits which are outlined in the tables in 4.1 above.
- 4.4 Obviously if there is any further academy conversion the numbers will once again change.

5 Financial Implications/Value for Money

There are no financial or value for money implications.

6 Legal Implications

Based on the recommended membership, the numbers of members representing schools in a particular school category will be broadly proportionate to the total number of schools in that category when compared with the total number of schools.

7 School Improvement

There are no issues directly arising from this report.

8. Recommendations

To note the report

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