

# Agenda Item 15

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Schools Forum Membership Review 2020</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Schools Forum on 14 October 2020
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Assistant Director for Learning and Partnerships – Sal Thirlway

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

A well proportionated membership will ensure a fair representation of schools in the Borough in Schools Forum.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Schools Forum continue with its current membership structure.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

Members are asked to consider the number of schools that converted to academy since the last review, the number of pupils in each phase and type of school, and based on this information determine its membership. Schools Forum may decide to continue with the current arrangements or to change the number of members to reflect the fact that a number of primary maintained schools have converted to academy since the last review.

## **Background**

Schools Forum undertakes an annual review of its membership, usually at the beginning of each new academic year. A review was carried out last year which resulted in a reduction in the overall number of members. The new structure reflected the increase in the number of academy schools within the Borough.

The current membership of Schools Forum was agreed at the 16 October 2019 meeting and is as follows (see appendix 1):

### **School representatives**

Maintained Primary 6

Maintained Secondary 1

Academies 9 (preferably 3 primary and 6 secondary)

Special School 1

PRU 1

### **Non-school representatives**

Early Years 2

WBC Councillor 1

WBC 1

Post 16 education 1

**Total 23**

## **Analysis of Issues**

It is worth noting that seats are allocated to schools; headteachers have the discretion to appoint a school business manager or school governor to represent the school. To retain a 'good' mix of skills and experience it would be preferable to have a mixture of headteachers, school business managers and governors in the Forum.

### **Proposed change**

Since the last review of the Forum's membership, 7 maintained primary schools converted to academy status. There have been no changes to maintained secondary schools.

As there have not been any significant changes, Schools Forum may wish to continue with its current membership structure.

It is for Schools Forum to make a decision on any changes to its membership.

### **Duration of Terms of Office**

No duration is currently specified. Forum has in the past decided that it was preferable to retain the expertise of members rather than limit the duration of membership and risk losing valuable contributions. Schools Forum may wish to continue with this arrangement.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

*The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.*

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A		

<b>Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision</b>
N/A

<b>Cross-Council Implications</b>
N/A

<b>Public Sector Equality Duty</b>
Please confirm that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been taken and if an equalities assessment has been completed or explain why an equalities assessment is not required.
N/A

<b>List of Background Papers</b>
Appendix 1 and Appendix 2

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