

LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

Meeting / Date	SCHOOLS FORUM 17 September 2014	Agenda Item	5
Report Title	Schools Forum membership		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	For Discussion and Decision		
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Appendices	Appendix A: Current position, October 2014 NOR and Summary of Changes		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The term of office of most members of the Schools Forum ends in October 2014. At the same time, it is necessary to review the current breakdown of membership to ensure that it complies with the Schools Forum Regulations which were updated in October 2013.
- 1.2 This report therefore reviews the current membership and recommends changes to the balance of Schools Members to ensure that it better reflects the forecasted breakdown in categories of schools and their numbers on roll in the October 2014 school census. This is the first time when all academies (whether sponsored, recoupment or non-recoupment) and free schools must be included.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Schools Forum to agree:

- 2.1 That Schools Forum should consist of 22 members; 18 schools members and 4 non-schools members.
- 2.2 The breakdown of the 18 schools members to be elected should be:
 - 6 maintained primary schools (3 headteachers and 3 governors)
 - 4 maintained secondary schools (2 headteachers and 2 governors)
 - 5 academy and free schools (3 primary and 2 secondary)
 - 1 nursery school
 - 1 special school / academy
 - 1 pupil referral unit

2.3 The breakdown of the 4 non-school members should be:

- Private, Voluntary and Independent early years providers (elected by PVI providers in the borough))
- 16-19 providers (elected by 16-19 providers with 20% or more of their students residing in the borough)
- Trade unions (nominated by recognised trade unions in the borough)
- Diocesan Education Service (nominated by the two Diocesan Boards)

2.4 All appointments will be for a three year term of office.

2.5 All elections and nominations must be completed so that members can attend the Schools Forum meeting to be held on 12 November 2014 when the chair and vice-chair will be elected to hold office for the next three years.

3. REASON

3.1 The Local Authority is required to consult with Schools Forum concerning the represented groups, types of members and number of representatives. The Local Authority is also required to consult on non-school members. Schools members must make up at least two-thirds of the total membership.

4 BACKGROUND

School Representatives:

4.1 The membership of Schools Forum was last changed in May 2012 following changes by the government in the constitution and powers of Schools Forums. Appendix A Table 1 shows the breakdown in the number of schools and school population at that time.

4.2 Schools Forum agreed that on the basis of the above that schools membership should be as shown in Appendix A Table 2.

4.3 The forecasted number on roll in October 2014 is 42,324 as shown in Appendix A Table 3

4.4 On this basis, if the total number of members remains at 18, the best fit for breakdown in membership is as follows:

Proposed Membership:

Category	headteachers	governors	Total	%
Primary – maintained	3	3	6	33.3%
Primary – academy			3	16.7%
Secondary – maintained	2	2	4	22.2%
Secondary – academy			2	11.1%
Special schools / academies			1	5.6%
Nursery schools			1	5.6%
Pupil Referral Unit.			1	5.6%
Total			18	100%

- 4.5 This gives a split of 9:6 between primary and secondary phases (as at present, including a nursery representative) and a 10:5 split between maintained schools / academies and free schools (previously 14:2 and reflects the growth in number of academies and free schools). Appendix A table 4 shows the comparison. The guidance from the DfE is that schools and academies representatives should be roughly proportionate to the number of pupils in each sector. The number of maintained primary school representatives (after including the nursery school representative) is marginally under-represented but during the next three years it is anticipated that the number of primary pupils in academies and free schools will rise. There is no longer a requirement to have a balance between headteacher and governor representatives.
- 4.6 The headteacher representatives for primary and secondary maintained schools should be elected by the respective headteacher groups. The governor representatives should be elected through the chairs of governing bodies of the primary and secondary sectors. Governors of the two all-through schools are able to stand as either a primary or a secondary school representative and the two schools are able to participate in the election of both primary and secondary governors. The nursery school representative who can be a headteacher or governor should be elected through the three nursery school governing bodies that will not have the right to participate in the election of primary school governor representatives.
- 4.7 The election of the five mainstream academy and free school representatives is by the proprietors of the schools and this method should now also be used for electing the special school & academy representative as four of the special schools will now be academies by that date. The Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) representative should be elected by the governing body of the PRU and can be a headteacher or a governor.

Non-school Representatives:

- 4.8 There are currently four non-schools members. The Regulations require local authorities to have a representative of providers of 16-19 education elected by 16-19 providers e.g. FE and sixth form colleges with 20% or more of their students residing in the borough. The Local Authority must also appoint at least one person to represent early years providers from the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector. The DfE also advises that local authorities consider whether faith groups should be represented on Schools Forum e.g. Church of England and Roman Catholic or some other faith if there are such schools in the borough. It is up to the diocesan authorities to determine who represents them. The DfE also suggest that greater breadth of discussion can be brought by including stakeholders and partners other than schools e.g. trades unions, professional associations, representatives of youth groups and parents could all be considered.
- 4.9 Taking all of this into account, the Local Authority proposes that the number of non-school members is limited to the four existing member representation:

- 16-19 provider
- Early years PVI provider
- Roman Catholic or Church of England diocesan board
- Trade unions

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 This report was originally presented to Schools Forum in June. Schools Forum did not agree the recommendations and asked for the report to be revisited in the September meeting to allow Schools Forum members time to consult with their colleagues.