

Schools Forum Membership Update

Schools Forum

Date 3rd October 2017

Author: Head of Education

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1. The Local Authority has conducted a short review of Schools Forum to ensure that the current membership is appropriate in the light of the evolving balance of schools in Swindon and with regards to the 2002 Education Act, Schools Forum (England) regulations 2012 and Schools Forum Operational and Good Practice Guide 2015.
- 1.2. The review also considered actual membership and steps being taken to fill vacancies

2. Recommendations

The Schools Forum is asked to:

- 2.1. Agree that the number of members stays at 22 and that there are no changes to membership structure nor to the current representation on Schools Forum.
- 2.2. Note there is a vacancy for a BME representative and nominations will be sought through the Equalities Advisory Forum
- 2.3. Note there are currently 4 vacancies for representative of Academies and representation is being sought through the primary and secondary head teacher associations
- 2.4. Note there is one vacancy for a diocesan representative from the Bristol C. Of E diocese or the Clifton catholic Diocese (this is a shared position)

3. Detail

- 3.1. Section 43 of the 2002 Education Act required Local Authorities to establish a Schools Forum to represent its schools.
- 3.2. Schools Forum were put in place to support local authorities on matters relating to school budgets and therefore play an important part in the local decision-making process.

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- 3.3. Each local authority must ensure that the Schools Forum for its area is constituted in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Education Funding Agency.
- 3.4. The existing representation of the Forum was last considered at the Schools Forum meeting held on 18th October 2016
- 3.5. As part of the regular committee process a short review of the Schools Forum membership structure has been undertaken. Because there has been little change in the numbers of academies in the borough, it was recommended that there needed to be no changes this year in terms of representation.

Current Schools Forum membership

- 3.6. There are currently a number of vacancies for membership to schools forum. The academy special school vacancy has been filled by Nick Capstick from Nylands School. Nylands is currently the only special school academy.
- 3.7. There are 4 vacancies for academy schools. These vacancies are not phase specific and do not have to be a head teacher or governor but can be anyone appropriate chosen to represent academies. Academy trusts were written to earlier in the year asking for representation and for this to be organised by the trusts working together and electing representatives. This has not happened. In the light of this, the local authority has written to the primary and secondary head teachers associations suggesting a way forward (letters attached) which would mean them selecting 2 primary and 2 secondary representatives through their meetings or other methods. The names of representatives is awaited at time of writing this report.
- 3.8. There is also a vacancy for a representative from the BME community. This will be sought from the Equalities Advisory Group.
- 3.9. The Bristol C of E Diocesan board and the Clifton Catholic Diocesan board have been contacted about the vacancy for a diocesan representative and a response is awaited.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1. No alternative options were needed for this report.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1. There are no specific implications relating to this report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2. There are no specific implications relating to this report.

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All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3. There are no such direct implications.

Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA)

- 5.4. The report reflects changes in the diversity of schools in Swindon.

- 5.5. Risk Assessment

There are no specific risk implications.

6. Consultees

- 6.1. The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1. Schools Forum: A Guide for Schools and Academies:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-forum-a-guide-for-schools-and-academies>
- 7.2. Schools Forums Operations and Good Practice Guide 2015.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-forums-operational-and-good-practice-guide-2015>

8. Appendices

- 8.1. Appendix 1 – Schools Forum Membership
- 8.2. Appendix 2 – Schools Forum Terms of Reference