

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2016

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

SCHOOLS FORUM

TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2016

13. Schools Forum Membership

The Head of Education submitted a report advising members that a review of the Schools Forum had been conducted. Mr Peter Nathan, Head of Education, advised that the review had been undertaken to ensure that the current membership was appropriate in 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. He referred to the membership structure and advised that to ensure proportionality, there was only one member from the maintained secondary school and that an extra member be elected by the mainstream Academy proprietors at a later date.

Mr Nathan responded to members' queries regarding the representation from Special Schools and the election of an academy representative by the Academy proprietors.

Resolved: That the Schools Forum recommends to Council that:

(a) The maintained school members within each group are drawn from headteachers, senior members of staff and governors.

(b) The number of mainstream Schools Forum members remains at 12 (21 Schools Forum members in total).

(c) The vacant maintained secondary governor position is deleted.

(d) That one extra member is elected to represent mainstream academies, to be elected at a later date by the proprietors of mainstream Swindon Academies.

(e) The Proposed membership structure and representatives of Schools Forum at Appendix 1 of the report.

(f) It notes there is currently a vacancy for a representative of Special Academies and the proprietor of the special academy is requested to seek a representative for Schools Forum.

(g) The Terms of Reference for Schools Forum be revised as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

(h) That the Head of Education be requested to contact the Academy proprietors to request they nominate a representative to the Schools Forum.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2016

34. Scrutiny Committee Annual report 2015/16

The Committee considered its Annual Report for 2015/16 prepared by the Director of Law and Democratic Services.

The Annual Report highlighted the work of the Scrutiny Committee and its five Overview and Scrutiny Committees during the Municipal Year 2015/16, in their role of supporting the Council's decision-making and policy development processes and the work of the Cabinet and the Council as a whole.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee explained in his foreword to the report that the Scrutiny Committee recommendations are relied on to ensure Swindon's diverse needs are accounted for in these difficult and transitional times. He referred to the new ways of working with the challenge of ensuring resilience with excellence, the introduction of 'Pre-Scrutiny' and a re-focus on the Cabinets Work Plan. The Committee noted that the public role of the Overview and Scrutiny function was one area for improvement. In light of this, members felt that there needed to be an element of reflection of how Scrutiny in Swindon could be more effective and the structures currently in place remain fit for purpose.

The Committee thanked the Director of Law and Democratic Services for a very good report that highlighted the work of Scrutiny in Swindon.

Resolved – (1) That the Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2015/16 be noted and referred to Full Council for information.

(2) That arrangements are made for a workshop, open to all members of the Council, to consider improvements to the Scrutiny process in Swindon. The workshop to be held prior to a future Scrutiny Committee.