

Meeting of the Dudley Schools Forum – 27th February, 2024

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Schools Forum Membership – Spring Elections Process

Purpose

1. To provide Schools Forum with an update in respect of Schools Forum membership.

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

2. Schools Forum is responsible for ensuring that the constitution and membership meet the legislative requirements detailed in the School Forum (England) Regulations 2012, which were effective from 1st October 2012, as amended by Regulation 3 of the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2015.

Recommendation

3. That the updated position in respect of the membership of Dudley's Schools Forum, be noted.

Background

4. Dudley's current Schools Forum Constitution allows for 28 members; comprising of 14 School members, 10 Academy School members and 4 Non-schools members.
5. Schools Forum posts are appointed on a rolling basis to cover a three year period. The commencement date for Governors, Academy School representatives and Non School Members is 1st May with Headteacher representatives from 1st November.

6. The Spring 2024 election process will commence in March, 2024 in order to seek Schools Forum representation for the following vacancies covering the three year period commencing on 1st May, 2024:

- Two Primary School Governors, currently as follows:

Mrs J Morgan (Dawley Brook Primary School)

Vacancy

- One Special School Governor (currently Mr P Leyshon)
- Three Academy Member Representatives, currently as follows:

Mr S Lanckham (Windsor Academy Trust)

Vacancy (Shirelands Academy Trust)

Vacancy

- Two Non School Members, currently as follows:

Mr T Reid, Diocesan Deputy Director of Education, Worcester
Diocesan Board of Education

Mrs E O'Brien, Childminder, Early Years Provider Reference Group

Process for the Spring 2024 School Member Representative Elections

7. Correspondence will be issued in March, 2024 to the relevant groups to advise of the forthcoming election process in respect of Schools Forum vacancies including the following timescales:
- Nomination slips must be returned to the Local Authority representative by e-mail by 12 noon on Friday 22nd March 2024.
 - If more than one nomination is received for each category of representative, an election will be held for that category. Ballot papers and supporting material will be sent to all for that category at the address held on the Governor Support database. Once the Ballot exercise has been completed, the successfully elected representatives will be advised by e-mail after Monday 15th April, 2024.
 - Once the appointment has been confirmed by the Director of Children's Services, Democratic Services will be advised of the Schools Forum appointments made in order that the representatives are invited to the June, 2024 meeting. If there are no successful nominations then a vacancy will be maintained until the next election process.

- Nominations for Non School Member Representatives will be requested by the relevant Group.

Successful Appointments to the Schools Forum Vacancies from May 2024

8. Due to the timeline in respect of the election closing date, the Forum will receive a verbal update at the 16th April, 2024 meeting of the progress in respect of the election process.

Budget Working Group

9. This report will be considered by the Budget Working Group on 20th February, 2024.

Finance

10. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018.

Law

11. The Schools Forum is a statutory decision making and consultative body constituted in line with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and its associated regulations, including the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012, to enable members of the local school community to work in partnership with Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council when making decisions about school funding and finances.
12. Schools Forums are regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 as amended.

Risk Management

13. There are no implications to the Council's Risk Management Framework that result from the proposals contained within this report.

Equality Impact

14. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy is taken into account when considering the allocation of resources.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

15. This report has no direct implications for organisational development, human resources or service transformation.

Commercial/Procurement

16. There is no impact on the potential to commercially trade and no impact on our customer base.

Environment/Climate Change

17. This report has no direct implications on the environment or the Council's work in addressing Climate Change and achieving Net Zero target by 2030.

Council Priorities and Projects

18. The Dudley Council Plan 2022-2025 is clear in its ambitions for educational outcomes including raising skills, educational and work potential, increasing good or better schools and closing the gap for disadvantaged pupils. The role of Dudley Schools Forum is to advise the Council on matters affecting schools funding, principally the allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), and the local Fair Funding Formula which distributes budgets to schools, early years providers and other maintained education settings.



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Appendix

Appendix 1 – School Forum Membership from 14th February, 2024

List of Background Documents

[Schools Forum Constitution – 1st January, 2018](#)
[The Schools Forums \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)