

**Schools Forum 24 October 2013**

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**Schools Forum Membership - Update**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To update Schools Forum members on the current position relating to the new appointments and vacancies.

**Budget Working Group Discussed**

2. No.

**Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities**

3. Schools Forum is responsible for ensuring that the constitution and membership meet the legislative requirements detailed in the School Forum (England) Regulations 2012.

**Action for Schools Forum**

4. To note the membership update at Appendix A.

**Attachments to Report**

5. Appendix A – Membership Update.

Karen Cocker  
Children's Services Finance Manager  
11 October 2013

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**Schools Forum Membership**

**Background**

2. The Dudley Schools Forum is constituted by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council under the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 ("the Regulations"), which came into force from 1 October 2012.
3. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning, with advice from the Director of Children's Services, will give consideration to amending the Constitution on request of the Schools Forum or otherwise.
4. Amendments to the Schools Forum Constitution are required from 1 January 2014 in line with Regulation 4 of the DfE's School and Early Year Regulations 2013, which will introduce a new member to represent the 16-19 FE providers and remove the 14-19 Strategic Partnership representative.
5. These amendments were discussed with Schools Forum on 17 September 2013 together with changes required in relation to the proportionality of school members following the recent conversion of 5 maintained schools to Academy status. As a result an updated Constitution was proposed and agreed.
6. The Constitution will be effective from the 1 January 2014 and currently subject to Cabinet Member approval.

**Schools Forum Membership Arrangements**

7. The membership of the Schools Forum totals 29 and from 1 January 2014 this will remain unchanged.
8. However, the composition will change; this is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 – Schools Forum Constitution Membership

| <b>Category of Member</b> | <b>To 31 December 2013</b> | <b>January 2014</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| School Members            | 22                         | 20                  |
| Academy School Members    | 2                          | 4                   |
| Non- School Members       | 5                          | 5                   |
| Total                     | 29                         | 29                  |

**Schools Member Representatives for Approval from 1 November 2013**

9. Schools Member Head Teacher appointments are effective from 1 November. The following member's term of office expires on 31 October 2013 and the representative Head Teacher groups have nominated the replacements. When the Cabinet Member has approved the appointments these will be formalised through the Council's democratic process in readiness for the December meeting.

- North Dudley township. Mrs P. Hazlehurst (Christ Church Primary) will continue in post as the Primary Headteacher representative. This post is for the three year term of office to expire 31 October 2016.
- Brierley Hill township. Mr B. Jones (Brockmoor Primary) was elected to the position of Primary Headteacher representative to replace Mr S. Hudson from 1 November 2013. This post is for a three year term of office to expire 31 October 2016.
- Central Dudley township. Mrs A Garratt (Hillcrest School and Community College) will continue in post as the Secondary Headteacher representative. This post is for the three year term of office to expire 31 October 2016.
- Nursery School. Mrs H. Ruffles (Netherton Park Nursery) will continue in post as the Nursery Headteacher representative. This post is for the three year term of office to expire 31 October 2016.

**Academy School Members- Update**

10. The 2 additional Academy School members, which will take the representation to 4 Academy School members, must be nominated by the governing bodies of the Academies in Dudley's area.
11. The election process for the Academy school nominations is now underway. The outcomes of the election process will be confirmed in a further decision sheet for Cabinet Member approval at that time, to be effective from 1 January 2014.

### **Non – School Members**

12. There is a Schools Forum vacancy for the 14-19 Strategic Partnership representative however, the DfE Regulations will remove this position and from January 2014 it will be replaced with a 16-19 Further Education representative.
13. There are 5 Providers of 16–19 Further Education in Dudley and the Director of Children's Services is currently in communication with these providers to seek a nomination from their representative group.
14. The outcomes of that process will be confirmed in a further decision sheet for Cabinet Member approval at that time, to be effective from 1 January 2014.
15. There is an existing vacancy for a Schools Forum member to represent the Catholic Schools Commission, nominated by the Commission.

### **Finance**

16. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2012.
17. Schools Forums are regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.
18. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant; Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

### **Law**

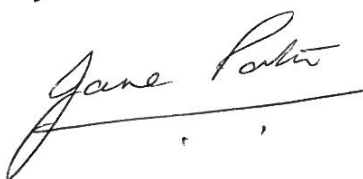
19. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

### **Equality Impact**

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

### **Recommendation**

21. To note the contents of the report in respect of the School Forum membership update and the members details in Appendix A.



**Jane Porter**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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