

Schools Forum 2 June 2009

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Dudley Schools Forum Constitution

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Schools Forum approval to an updated version of the Dudley Schools Forum constitution.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. No.

Action for Schools Forum

3. To approve an updated version of the Dudley Schools Forum constitution following amendments to reflect the action points agreed at the 17 March 2009 meeting. The amendments are shown in italic font.

Attachments to Report

4. Updated Dudley Schools Forum Constitution for approval – Appendix A.

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
18 May 2009

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Dudley Schools Forum Constitution

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Background

2. At the March 2009 meeting, Forum Members approved the Dudley Schools Forum Constitution subject to minor amendments.
3. The Constitution at Appendix A has been updated to include the resolutions from the March 2009 meeting. The amendments are shown in italic font. The resolution is detailed below.
4. Resolution 17 March 2009
 - a. That the revised Constitution, as set out at Appendix A to the report now submitted, be recommended to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services for approval, subject to:
 - Paragraph 30 being amended to provide for substitute members nominated to be required to be appointed from the same section of membership and the same phase of education as the member substituted;
 - the biographical details of the nominee being permitted to be specified in the election address in no more than 100 words and that this be reflected in the revised Constitution;
 - That a clause be added to the Constitution to require the disqualification of a member if he or she fails to attend meetings of the Forum for six months, without having apologies for absence accepted by the Forum.
 - b. That, with regard to the issue of return of ballot papers without signatures, as reported orally by the Children's Services Finance Manager, the ballot papers be accepted on this occasion but that the matter be considered further in relation to future elections.
 - c. That the updated Constitution, incorporating the amendments in the appendix to the report and those referred to above, be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum.

- d. That the Cabinet Member be recommended that the existing membership of the Forum be disenfranchised with effect from 1st May, 2009.

Finance

5. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
6. Schools Forums are regulated by the School Forums Regulations 2002 as already amended by the Schools Forums (Amendment) Regulations 2004 the Schools Forums (Amendment) 2005 Regulations and the Schools Forums (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
7. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

8. 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

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

Recommendation

10. Schools Forum to approve the amended Constitution, attached at Appendix A. Any further amendments will be considered in March 2010 after 12 months of implementation.



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Interim Director of Children's Services

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