

**Schools Forum 7 July 2009**

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

**Consultation On The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2009**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To prepare a response, on behalf of Schools Forum, to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) consultation on the new Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2009.

**Discussed at HTCF – BWG**

2. No

**Actions for Schools Forum**

3. To agree on a response to the DCSF consultation in respect of amendments to be included within the Schools Forum Regulations 2009.

**Attachments to Report**

4. Appendix 1 – DCSF letter dated 5 June 2009
5. Appendix 2 – DCSF draft Regulations 2009
6. Appendix 3 - .DCSF accompanying note on consultations on Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2009

Karen Cocker  
Children's Services Finance Manager  
19 June 2009

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To prepare a response, on behalf of Schools Forums, to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) consultation on the new Schools Forums (England) Regulations.

**Background**

2. On the 5 June 2009, the DCSF issued correspondence to local authorities in respect of the consultation on the new Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2009. The letter is attached at Appendix 1 and the draft regulations are attached at Appendix 2.
3. The main purpose of the draft regulations is to give effect to the government's recent legislation and policy developments. As such, one of the proposed changes is to bring academies into membership of the forum. These draft regulations replace the Schools Forums Regulations 2002 as already amended by the Schools Forums (Amendment) Regulations 2004, 2005, and 2008, and have been re-written for clarity.
4. The DCSF would also like to consult on making the representation of early years PVI providers more effective, and on giving local authorities the option of changing the composition of their schools members of Schools Forums to reflect locality working, from 2011.
5. Additional questions seeking views on these subjects have been added to the DCSF accompanying notes; these are attached at Appendix 3 and have been partially completed by the Director of Children's Services on behalf of Schools Forum's for further consideration before submission to the DCSF by 28 August 2009.

**Finance**

6. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2008.
7. 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.

8. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

### **Law**

9. 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**

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

### **Recommendation**

11. That Schools Forum review and agree on a final response to the DCSF consultation in respect of the draft Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2009, a partially completed response on behalf of Schools Forum is attached at Appendix 3.



**Mark Wyatt**

**Director of Children's Services**

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