

SCHOOLS' FORUM – 23 APRIL 2015

Title of paper:	Revised Membership and Constitution for Nottingham City Schools' Forum
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Summary The Schools' Forum membership and constitution need to be refreshed in light of new guidance issued by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) in December 2014, to reflect the change in its required membership and consultation roles. The revised guidance means that the Forum membership needs to be increased to include representation from Alternative Provision (AP) Academies and Free Schools, and Special Academies. This report outlines the required changes for implementation from April 2015.	
Recommendation(s):	
1	To note the appointment of Chris Manze from Stone Soup Academy as the AP Academy representative.
2	To note the appointment of Tracey Ydlibi from Nethergate School as the Special Academy representative.
3	To note the new consultation roles of the Schools' Forum as detailed in paragraph 1.3 below.

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The EFA issued new guidance in December 2014 which provides clear instructions on revised membership and consultation roles for Schools' Forums.
- 1.2 In order to comply with the EFA guidance, membership of the Schools' Forum will be widened to include:
 - a) a representative of AP Academies and Free Schools, where they exist;
 - b) a representative of Special Academies and Free Schools, where they exist.
- 1.3 In order to comply with the EFA guidance, the Forum's consultation role will be extended to include:

- a) special places to be commissioned by the authority in different institutions, and the arrangements for paying top-up funding;
- b) AP places to be commissioned by the authority and by schools in PRUs and other providers of AP, and the arrangements for paying top-up funding.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 In December 2014 the EFA issued guidance entitled 'Schools Revenue Funding 2015 to 2016 – Operational Guide'. This guidance includes an update to the required membership and consultation roles of Schools' Forums.
- 2.2 The guidance requires that the Forum must have a representation from AP Academies and Free Schools. As Stone Soup Academy is the only AP Academy within Nottingham City, a representative has been sought from this school and Chris Manze has been appointed. There are no AP Free Schools within Nottingham City.
- 2.3 The guidance also requires that the Forum must have a representative from Special Academies and Free Schools. As Nethergate School is the only Special Academy within Nottingham City, a representative has been sought from this school and Tracey Ydlibi has been appointed. There are no Special Free Schools within Nottingham City.
- 2.4 The revised constitution reflecting these changes can be found at Appendix 1 to this report. Changes have been made to include the following:
 - a) the changed membership as outlined in paragraph 1.2 above;
 - b) the changed consultation role as outlined in paragraph 1.3 above.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 No other options were considered as the membership and constitution need to be updated in the light of the new EFA guidance.

4. OUTCOMES/DELIVERABLES

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report aim to contribute to efficient, effective and lawful decision making by the Schools' Forum.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications or value for money issues arising from this report.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

- 6.1 The risk of having a constitution which is not in line with the EFA guidance is to expose the Forum to unlawful decision making.

7. HR ISSUES

- 7.1 None.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 An equality impact assessment is not needed as the report does not relate to new or changing policies or functions.

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

9.1 None.

10. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

10.1 Schools' Revenue Funding 2015 to 2016 Operational Guide, Education Funding Agency, December 2014

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/390387/Schools_revenue_funding_2015_to_2016_operational_guide_Dec_2104.pdf