

## SCHOOLS FORUM – 15 January 2019

<b>Title of paper:</b>	<b>Revised Membership and Constitution for Nottingham City Schools Forum</b>
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<b>Summary</b>	
<p>The Schools Forum membership and constitution need to be reviewed in light of a change in the balance between academies and maintained schools in Nottingham City following the conversion to academy status of Ellis Guilford School.</p> <p>This report outlines the required changes for implementation from December 2018.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	
<b>1</b>	To note the new number of school representatives for maintained mainstream schools and mainstream academies and free schools in each sector.
<b>2</b>	To note the appointment of Sally Coulton from Ellis Guilford Academy, Robert White from NUAST and Cath Rowell from Bluecoat Aspley Academy as the new Secondary Academy and Free Schools representatives.
<b>3</b>	To note the appointment of Patricia Vladev from Stanstead Primary School as the new Primary Academy representative.
<b>4</b>	To note that there were no nominations for a Special Academy representative and this remains a vacancy on the Forum.
<b>5</b>	To note the reduction in the number of Maintained Primary representatives when their terms of offices are over or if a vacancy arises.

### **1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The Schools Forum Operational and Good Practice Guide published by the EFA states that the structure of the Schools Forum should be regularly reviewed. Over time the number of academies, particularly in the primary sector, has increased meaning that academies have been under-represented.
- 1.2 In order to better represent the makeup of schools in Nottingham City, the schools membership of the Schools Forum has been altered to:

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Number of representatives</b>	<b>Change</b>
Maintained Primary	3	-2

Primary Academy	4	+1
Secondary Academy and Free School	5	+2

- 1.3 There was also a vacancy for a Special Academy representative due to a former member standing down. Attempts were made to recruit to this vacancy unsuccessfully in the Summer but this has now been filled.
- 1.4 The Operational and Good Practice Guide allows for increasing the size of the Schools Forum temporarily to appoint additional academy members, then deleting school member posts at the end of a term of office or when a vacancy arises. The current maintained primary members will therefore be able to retain their places unless they stand down or their term of office ends.

## **2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 2.1 With the recent conversion of Ellis Guilford School to academy status, there are no longer any maintained secondary schools within the Nottingham City area. The place held by Ellis Guilford has therefore been converted to a place for a secondary academy representative as the guidance states that a secondary schools members must stand down if their school converts to an academy.
- 2.2 The membership review was delayed pending Ellis Guilford's conversion to academy status. As all secondary schools have now converted to academies in Nottingham City there should be no further requirement for major changes to secondary academy representation for the foreseeable future.
- 2.3 The number of academy conversions of primary schools has stabilised in recent times following the establishment of the Nottingham Schools Trust. Only one more conversion is currently planned, and so the balance of primary schools should remain the same for the foreseeable future.
- 2.4 The revised constitution reflecting these changes can be found at Appendix 1 to this report. Changes have been made to include the changed membership as outlined in paragraph 1.2 above.

## **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To continue with the current membership was disregarded as it does not properly represent the make-up of schools in the city.

## **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 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)**

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

**6 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)**

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

**7 HR COLLEAGUE COMMENTS**

7.1 None.

**8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

8.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

An EIA is not required because the report does not relate to new or changing policies or functions.

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Yes

**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 Forum operational and good practice guide, Education Funding Agency, March 2015 (last updated 17 September 2018)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-forums-operational-and-good-practice-guide-2015>