

# DECISION PAPER

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**SUBJECT:** School Forum Membership 2013/14

**DATE:** 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013

**RECIPIENT:** Schools Forum

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## **SUMMARY:**

- 1 The Southampton Schools Forum Constitution states that the Council will review the composition and membership of the Forum in September of every year.
- 2 Due to the conversion of some maintained schools to academy status over the past year a review has been undertaken to ensure there are the correct levels of representation at the Forum.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

- 3 That the School Forum agrees to continue with the existing number of 19 representatives.
- 4 Based on the revised numbers of Academy schools in the city that Forum agrees to the proposed proportion of schools, non schools and Academy representation as detailed:
  - Maintained Primary Schools - 5
  - Maintained Secondary Schools - 3
  - Academy – 3
  - Special School – 2
  - Pupil Referral Unit – 1
  - Nursery – 1
  - Non Schools – 4

## **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5 To ensure that the membership of the Forum reflects most effectively the profile of education provision across the authority to ensure that there is not an in built bias towards any one phase or group.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 6 None.

## **BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:**

- 7 The Department for Education (DfE) issued the new Schools Forum regulations on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012. They will be consulting on one change to the new Schools Forum regulations in 2014-15 which require Schools Forums to include a representative from post 16 education to replace the existing representative from the 14-19 partnership.

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- 8 School and Academy members together must number at least two thirds of the total membership of the Schools Forum and the balance between primary, secondary and academies members must be broadly proportionate to the pupil numbers in each category.
- 9 The DfE's operational guide highlights the fact that the authority has the discretion to divide these groups into one or more of the following sub-groups:
- Head teachers or head teachers' representatives in each group
  - Governors in each group
  - Head teachers or head teachers representatives and governors in each group.
  - Representatives of the particular school category
- 10 Academy members must be elected by the proprietor bodies of the Academies in the authority's area. Academies members are there to represent the proprietor bodies of Academies and are, therefore, not necessarily restricted to principals, senior staff or governors.
- 11 For this purpose Free Schools, University Technical Colleges, and Studio Schools count as Academies. There is no distinction between sponsored, non-recoupment and convertor Academies and no requirement for separate primary and secondary Academy representation.
- 11 As with school members, the local authority may set a date by which the election should take place and must appoint an Academies member if the election does not take place by that date.
- 11 The constitution states that nominations must be submitted to the Clerk to the Forum annually by September either at the September meeting or in writing to the address for the service of Notices.

## **Appendices/Supporting Information:**

- 1 Schools Forum Membership Analysis 2013-14

### **Further Information Available From:**

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## Appendix 1

Schools Forum Membership Analysis 2013-14					
Schools	2013-14 NOR	Current Numbers of Reps	Current Position @ 1st July 2013	Required Proportion Based on Current NOR	Notes
Primary	14,084	6 (2 Govs)	13,216	5	
Secondary	6,881	4 (1 Gov)	6,881	3	
Academy Primary	3,076	0	3,944	2	Academy Representation could be from any sectors
Academy Secondary	2,887	1	2,887	1	
Special	382	2 (1 Gov)	382	2	On basis that Head & Governor remain on Forum
Nursery		1		1	
PRU		1		1	
Non Schools		4		4	Early years, Post 16 Education, Council Representative & Teacher unions
<b>Totals (excl Special)</b>	<b>26,928</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26,928</b>	<b>19</b>	Assumption that total remains at 19 Members