

MEETING:	SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE:	7 DECEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SCHOOLS FORUM CONSTITUTION
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PLANNING, PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT	CHRISTOPHER BAIRD

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To decide on proposals to amend the Schools Forum constitution.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT Schools Forum decides whether to adopt the following variations to the constitution:

- (a) the number used to determine a small school in terms of membership for schools forum be changed from 60 to 105**
- (b) that an additional membership place be provided for small primary schools;**
- (c) that one head teacher be allowed to represent two schools;**
- (d) that a Business Manager, representing all Business Managers, be added to the required membership of the forum.**

Key Points Summary

- Schools Forum approved a revised constitution in July 2009, to come into effect from September 2009. Since that time the Primary Schools Forum has requested that three

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
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amendments be made. There was also some discussion at Schools Forum regarding membership and Business Managers.

Alternative Options

- 1 The constitution could remain as it currently stands.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 Primary Schools Association have requested that the number defining a small school for schools forum membership purposes be changed from 60 to 105; that an additional membership place is provided to represent small schools; and that one head teacher be allowed to represent up to two types of school, where there is a joint headship. This is to expand the possible options for primary schools to fulfil the membership requirements of Schools Forum.
- 3 Representation of the Business Manager role was discussed at Schools Forum, but no formal proposal was considered. This paper enables this consideration to take place.

Introduction and Background

- 4 Schools Forum's constitution was revised in line with the latest DCSF guidance. The constitution was approved and is attached, but subsequent changes are now suggested.

Key Considerations

- 5 Changes to the constitution must comply with statute and should comply with guidance and best practice. Regulations were amended in 2008 and one of the amendments was to enable Head teachers to be represented by senior school staff, meaning principal, Deputy Head teacher, bursar or other person responsible for the financial management of the school.
- 6 The proposed changes to increase the number of Primary School representatives would mean that there would in effect be seven primary school representatives, including governors and six high school representatives.
- 7 The role of the Business Manager will evolve in Herefordshire. There may be Business Managers for single schools, or groups of schools. As part of broadening the representation present at Schools Forum it is recommended that the Business Manager be from a different school to other members of Schools Forum.

Community Impact

- 8 It is important that Schools Forum reflects the profile of schools across the authority.

Financial Implications

- 9 No financial implications are attached to the proposals.

Legal Implications

- 10 The Schools Forum constitution must comply with statute. These changes, if adopted, would do so.

Risk Management

- 11 These proposals have been suggested by Primary Head teachers Forum and by Schools Forum to lessen the risk of primary school representation not being achieved, and also to increase Schools Forum's capabilities by including representation from Business Managers.

Consultees

- 12 Primary Schools have put forward the three primary school proposals. Schools Forum discussed the Business Manager membership issue in brief at the last meeting.

Appendices

- 13 Appendix.1 Current Schools Forum Constitution.

Background Papers

- Revised Constitution for Schools Forum 7 July 2009