

MEETING:	SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE:	10 JUNE 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP
REPORT BY:	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To consider amendments to the Forum's Membership.

Recommendation

THAT: the Forum considers whether it wishes to recommend any changes to its membership to the Cabinet Member (Corporate and Education).

Key Points Summary

The Forum needs to express a view to the Local Authority on changes to its membership in particular to reflect the number of academies within the County. The various methods of calculation suggest, one academy representative from the secondary sector as at present, or the addition of one additional academy representative from the secondary sector and reduction of one secondary representative from the maintained sector, or the possibility of one academy representative from the primary sector and a reduction of one primary representative from the maintained sector, or three places for academy representatives on the Forum. The Forum is asked to express its view to inform the Local Authority.

Alternative Options

The Membership of the Forum could be varied in a number of ways.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 To update the Constitution to reflect the increased number of academies in the County.

Introduction and Background

- 3 The Forum considered its Membership and Constitution in July 2010. The Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2010 (the Regulations) came into force on 1 April 2010 and required

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Tim Brown, Committee Manager (Scrutiny) on (01432) 260239

that the Forum must appoint a representative from Academies in the area as a full Forum member. At that time there were two academies and it was agreed to include 1 Academy Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher representative within the Forum's membership. With effect from 1 June 2011 there are likely to be 10 academies.

- 4 In December 2010 the Forum agreed that the Forum's existing membership continue until the end of the financial year with a report on revising the Membership and amending the Constitution to be considered in March 2011. This recognised that the number of schools becoming academies would have an impact upon the proportional membership of the Forum.
- 5 In March the Forum decided that options for changes to the membership of the Forum should be referred to the Primary Schools Forum, Association of Secondary Headteachers and the Herefordshire Association of School Governors for further consideration with a report to the next meeting and that the Membership of the Forum continue on its current basis until after that meeting.
- 6 The Primary Schools Forum considers that it is not practical to make a decision on who representatives might be until ongoing applications for academy status are completed and that the Forum's Annual General Meeting in September, when representatives are normally elected would be a more sensible time to do so, if necessary. The Association of Secondary Headteachers is meeting on 8 June and its views will be reported at the meeting. No view has yet been received from the Association of School Governors.

Key Considerations

Membership

- 7 The provisions in the Regulations governing membership are appended. Key points to note are:
 - The local authority is responsible for determining the size and composition of their schools forum and the forum members' terms of office.
 - a forum must consist of at least 15 members comprising: (a) schools members elected in accordance with Regulation 5; (b) if there are any Academies in the authority's area, at least one Academies member elected or selected in accordance with Regulation 6; and (c) non-schools members appointed in accordance with Regulation 7.
 - Schools members and Academies members must together comprise at least two thirds of the membership of the Forum.
 - Regulation 4 states that, subject to paragraphs (6) to (8) of that Regulation, primary schools, secondary schools and Academies must be broadly proportionately represented on the forum, having regard to the total number of pupils registered at them. Regulation 4 (8) provides that an authority may determine that the number of members representing schools in a particular school category must be broadly proportionate to the total number of schools in that category when compared with the total number of schools maintained by the authority.
- 8 As Regulation 4 (5) states that it is subject to paragraphs (6) to (8) of Regulation 4 the first step is that a decision needs to be made by the authority as to whether the authority are determining that the number of members representing schools in a particular school category must be broadly proportionate to the total number of schools in that category when compared with the total number of schools maintained by the authority.

- 9 If the authority does not make that determination primary schools, secondary schools and Academies must be broadly proportionately represented on the forum, having regard to the total number of pupils registered at them.
- 10 The forecast numbers of pupils registered at Local Authority maintained schools and academies at 1 June 2011 is as follows:

	LA Maintained		Academies		Total	
	No. of Schools	No. of Pupils	No. of Schools	No. of Pupils	No. of Schools	No. of Pupils
Primary Schools	76	11,229	5	1,046	81	12,275
Secondary Schools	10	6,331	4	3,438	14	9,769
Age 3 - 16 Schools	-	-	1	319	1	319
Special	4	245	-	-	4	245
Total	89	17,805	10	4,803	100	22,608

A chart showing the current Membership is also appended.

- 11 The implications of achieving broadly proportionate membership based on the current membership of the Forum are set out below.
- 12 If the authority determines that the number of members representing schools in a particular school category must be broadly proportionate to the total number of schools in that category when compared with the total number of schools maintained by the authority this would imply on one calculation:
- 28.6% of the Secondary school representatives should be from academies. Based on the current membership provision of 5 Secondary School Head Teacher representatives and one academies representative (from the secondary sector) this would suggest consideration of one additional secondary academies representative on the Forum and one less representative from the maintained schools.
 - 6.2% of the primary school representatives should be from academies. This means no representation on the Forum from academies within the primary sector.
- 13 If the calculation were based on primary, secondary and academies (with no distinction between primary and secondary school academies) that would mean approximately 11.6% of the places for primary and secondary school representation would fall to an academy. Based on the provision of 6 primary school head teacher representatives and 5 secondary head teacher representatives and one academies representative there should be one place for an academy representative.
- 14 If regard were to be had instead to the number of pupils registered at schools:
- 35% of the Secondary school representatives should be from academies. Based on the current membership provision of 5 Secondary School Head Teacher representatives and one academies representative (from the secondary sector) this would suggest one additional secondary academy representative on the Forum and one less representative from the maintained schools.

- 8.5% of the primary school representatives should be from academies. This could suggest one representative on the Forum from academies within the primary sector ($6 \times 0.085 = 0.51$).

15 If the calculation were based on primary, secondary and academies (with no distinction between primary and secondary school academies) that would mean approximately 21.5% of the places for primary and secondary school representation would fall to an academy. Based on the provision of 6 primary school head teacher representatives and 5 secondary head teacher representatives and one academies representative from the secondary sector this would mean three places for academy representatives ($12 \times 0.215 = 2.58$).

16 The Forum is asked for its views to enable the Authority to reach its final decision.

17 It is proposed that the reviewed Membership take effect from 1 July 2011 and be reviewed annually thereafter.

Community Impact

18 None

Financial Implications

19 None

Legal Implications

20 None

Risk Management

21 None known.

Consultees

22 Primary Schools Forum, Association of Secondary Headteachers and the Herefordshire Association of School Governors.

Appendices

- Provisions in the Regulations governing membership
- A chart showing the current Membership of the Forum

Background Papers

None