

Decision Maker: **Schools' Forum**

Date: **20 September 2012**

TITLE: CONSTITUTION OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

Contact Officer: David Bradshaw, Head of Education and Care Services Finance
Tel: 020 8313 4807 E-mail: david.bradshaw@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Tessa Moore, Assistant Director of Education

Ward: Boroughwide

1. REASON FOR REPORT AND SUMMARY OF BUDGET POSITION

1.1 This report provides an overview of the Forum constitution changes that are being proposed by the Local Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **The Schools' Forum is invited to discuss and comment on the proposed Forum constitution changes.**

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 On the 26th March 2012 the Secretary of State published a consultation document called 'School Funding Reform: next steps towards a fairer system' which the Schools' Forum responded to. In the report in Section 1.6 the consultation referred to changes being proposed to the Schools Forum and therefore its constitution.

3.2 This will mean that the current regulations Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2010 will be revoked and will be replaced by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012. The new regulations will come into effect from October 2012 and Forums will need to be compliant with the regulations laid out.

3.3 Below are the main changes to the regulations and how it affects the current Bromley constitution.

Main changes to the Regulations

3.4 Change 1 – Removal of the requirement to have a minimum of 15 people on a Forum

Effect on Bromley – None, Bromley's current membership is above this level and there are no proposals to decrease membership.

Change 2 – Restriction on local authority attendees from participating in meetings unless they are a :-

- a) Relevant Lead Member
- b) Director of Childrens Services (or their representative)
- c) Chief Financial Officer (or their representative)
- d) Officer providing specific financial or technical advice (including presenting a paper to the Forum)

Effect on Bromley – None, this was in effect already in place. The wording in the terms of reference will be amended to more accurately reflect the wording above

Change 3 - Restricting the voting arrangements by allowing only schools and Academy members (and the private, voluntary and independent sector - PVI members) to vote on the funding formulae.

Effect on Bromley – The terms of reference will be amended to reflect this change.

Change 4 – The new regulations allow for de-delegation of funding. These will be specified in the finance regulations and only the relevant maintained school members of the Forum will be able to vote.

Effect on Bromley – The terms of reference will be amended to reflect this change.

Change 5 – Local Authorities will have to publish Forum papers, minutes and decisions on their websites

Effect on Bromley – None, the papers are now on line.

Change 6 – Forums are to hold public meetings, as is the case with other Council Committees.

Effect on Bromley – None, meetings are already open to the public.

Change 7 – EFA to be given Observer Status on the Forum.

Effect on Bromley – The terms of reference will be amended to reflect this change.

Change 8 – Pupil Referral Units will be reflected as a separate group to reflect their receipt of delegated budgets from April 2013.

Effect on Bromley – The constitution and terms of reference will be amended to reflect this change.

Change 9 – Remove the requirement for local authorities to consult Schools Forums annually about arrangements for free school meals and insurance as these are to be allocated through the formula in future.

Effect on Bromley – The terms of reference will be amended to reflect this change.

Membership of the Forum

3.5 Current Membership

SCHOOLS

Special school representative governor/head (non academy)	1
Primary Academy head representative	1
Primary Academy governor representative	1
Primary head representative (non academy)	2
Primary governor representative (non academy)	2
Secondary head/governor representative (non academy)	1
Secondary Academy head representative	2
Secondary Academy governor representative	2
	<u>12</u>

NON SCHOOLS

14-19 partnership	1
Early year provider (PVI)	1
Diocese CofE	1
Diocese Catholic	1
Joint Teacher Liaison	1
Parent Partnership Representative	1
	<u>6</u>

NON- VOTING ATTENDEES

Portfolio Holder/Portfolio Holder Assistant (regular attendee)	1
Assistant Director of Education/Schools (regular attendee)	1
Head of Finance (regular attendee)	1
Head of Schools Finance Support (regular attendee)	1
Admin Officer (regular attendee)	1
	<u>5</u>

Proposed membership

- 3.6 Current pupils numbers in each individual area have changed but not significantly enough to warrant any changes between primary/secondary or within maintained/academy. Current pupil numbers and Forum membership of the schools element is attached in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.7 Due to the changes in the legislation it is proposed to increase the Schools Membership by one to thirteen to include a PRU representative. Restricting the Schools Membership to twelve in this instance would lead to undue turbulence and would mean a reduction in the current membership of one place from either maintained primary, academy primary or secondary academy. This would lead to an unnecessary imbalance.
- 3.8 Therefore it is proposed to keep the current membership within the schools area static (apart from the addition described in paragraph 3.6 above).
- 3.9 Non schools membership would remain the same as last year.

3.10 The proposed membership would be as follows:-

SCHOOLS

Special school representative governor/head (non academy)	1
PRU representative head/governor (non academy)	1
Primary Academy head representative	1
Primary Academy governor representative	1
Primary head representative (non academy)	2
Primary governor representative (non academy)	2
Secondary head/governor representative (non academy)	1
Secondary Academy head representative	2
Secondary Academy governor representative	2
	<u>13</u>

NON SCHOOLS

Early year provider (PVI)	1
14-19 partnership**	1
Diocese CofE**	1
Diocese Catholic**	1
Joint Teacher Liaison**	1
Parent Partnership Representative**	1
	<u>6</u>

OTHER NON- VOTING ATTENDEES

Portfolio Holder/Portfolio Holder Assistant	1
Assistant Director of Education/Schools	1
Head of Finance	1
Head of Schools Finance Support	1
Clerk of the Forum	1
	<u>5</u>

Those members of the Forum marked with an asterisk (**) cannot vote on matters relating to the funding formulae to be used by the Local Authority.

3.11 **Appendix 2** contains the new detailed draft terms of reference and constitution for comment.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy Implications Financial Implications Legal Implications Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	N/A