

26 June 2019

Agenda Item

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**ANNUAL REVIEW OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP
QUOTAS**

Report of the Operations Director, Education

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Forum on the position in relation to membership quotas.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Forum is asked to decide which of the three options set out in para 2.7 below should be adopted to maintain proportionality of membership between academy and maintained schools in the light of an increase in the relative number of pupils in Academies.

3. Present position

- 2.1 Members will be aware that the numbers of members representing each category of members – primary maintained, secondary maintained and Academies – must be broadly proportional to the numbers of pupils in schools in each category. Because of the Academy conversion process and the establishing and expansion of schools, UTCs and Free Schools, each year a review is required to make sure proportionality is maintained.
- 2.2 The present position is set out below, based on numbers in schools at January 2019 census.

	Pupil numbers	Membership quota	Current members
Academies	91,530	6.69	6
Primary	84,918	6.21	7
Secondary, middle, upper	14,989	1.10	1
	191,437	14	14

- 2.3 It can be seen from the table above that there is now an imbalance between representation of maintained and academy schools. This requires a change in membership quotas to restore proportionality.

2.4 One of the features of the current system of representation is that the Academies category does not differentiate between representation of primary academies and secondary academies, nor between Head Teachers and Governors/Trustees. This is in part because increasingly Academy trusts are not only comprised of schools from one phase. On Forum we have two Heads of all-through schools. One of these is from a Trust which includes primary schools. We also have a governor who is from a Trust with both primary and secondary schools within it. Thus one cannot simply say that there are X or Y primary academy representatives.

2.5 However, within the primary maintained category we have defined representation of 2 Governors and 5 Head Teachers, in two different categories of membership within the primary maintained total.

2.6 There are a number of vacancies in Forum membership in both maintained and academy groupings, and expiring appointments held over until the end of this academic year. This is because we did not wish to hold new elections until after this annual review of membership quotas.

2.7 There are three options for changes to Forum membership to reflect the new numbers of pupils. These are:

(a) Reduce representation of Primary Heads by one from 5 to 4 and increase numbers of academy representatives by 1

This follows proportionality between categories of members; it does not increase total Forum membership; and it is quite likely that one of the new members to fill a current vacancy plus the additional member would be a primary head.

(b) Reduce representation of Primary Governors by one from 2 to 1 and increase numbers of academy representatives by 1

This follows proportionality between categories of members; it does not increase total Forum membership; and it is quite likely that one of the new members to fill a current vacancy plus the additional member would be a primary head, but perhaps less likely that it would be a Governor. This would reduce the number of places of Forum members reserved for governors only to just 1. However, it should be noted that two of the previously-existing 6 academies representatives were governors.

(c) Increase total number of schools representatives by one from 14 to 15, and for this extra representative to be an academies representative.

This enables the existing number of primary maintained heads and primary governors to be retained, but does increase the size of Forum by one.

2.8 Members of Forum are asked to decide which of options a, b and c is the preferred option.