

**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM**  
**13<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

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**Schools Forum Membership**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update members of the Schools Forum on the position regarding membership, following an analysis of pupil numbers in the May census and correspondence with schools and academies in the summer term 2016.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Schools Forum notes the content of this report.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure that the membership of the Schools Forum is up to date, in line with regulations and representative of the schools and academies in Slough.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 No alternative options were considered.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 Members of Schools Forum will recall that, at the meeting on 14th June 2016, it was proposed that those members whose terms of office end before 31 July 2017 be asked if they are willing to extend their office to that date, subject to the agreement of headteachers and chairs of governors of maintained schools and of academy proprietors.

- 5.2 The members in this position were:

- Navroop Mehat, Wexham Court Primary School (maintained)
- Maggie Waller, Holy Family School (maintained)
- Gillian Coffey, Lynch Hill Primary (academy)
- Nicky Willis, Cippenham Primary School (academy)
- Helen Huntley, Haybrook College (special academy & alternative provision)
- Philip Gregory, Baylis Court Nursery (nursery)
- Debbie Richards, Arbour Vale School ((maintained special)
- Virginia Barrett, East Berkshire College

5.2 Having sought the members' agreement to extend their term of office, a letter was sent to headteachers and chairs of governors of maintained schools and academy proprietors setting out the proposal. The reason for the proposal was stated as the need for continuity, experience and expertise on the Schools Forum at this time of great change when we anticipate the introduction of a national funding formula.

5.3 It was clarified in the letter that:

The extension of the term of office for Navroop Mehat and Maggie Waller was subject to agreement by headteachers and chairs of governors of maintained schools.

The extension of the term of office for Gillian Coffey, Nicky Willis and Helen Huntley was subject to agreement by academy proprietors.

The extension of the term of office for Philip Gregory was subject to agreement by nurseries.

As there is only one maintained special school in Slough, the extension of the term of office for Debbie Richards was subject to agreement by Arbour Vale School.

5.4 Responses were requested to the proposal by 15th July 2016. 11 responses were received by this date. 6 responses were from academies, 5 from maintained or VA schools. All the responses supported the proposals set out in 5.3 in broad terms. The proposal to extend the terms of office of Navroop Mehat and Maggie Waller was specifically approved by the five maintained schools who responded. The proposal to extend the terms of Gillian Coffey, Nicky Willis and Helen Huntley was supported by the six academies who responded.

Responses have subsequently been received to indicate that the extension to Philip Gregory's term of office is supported by the nursery schools, and that of Debbie Richards is supported by Arbour Vale School.

5.5 East Berkshire College has confirmed that the College Principal will be represented at Schools Forum meetings by Richard Kirkham (Director of Curriculum & Head of Langley College).

5.6 Since the June meeting of the Schools Forum an analysis of pupil numbers in academies and maintained schools has been carried out to check that the membership of the Schools Forum reflects appropriately the proportion of pupils being educated in the two sectors.

5.7 The May pupil census for Slough shows the proportion of pupils in academies, (excluding special and nursery) is now 61%, with the remaining 39% of pupils in maintained primary and secondary schools.

As there are 15 schools' and academies' members in total this means there should be 9 academy members and 6 maintained school members. There are currently 9 academy members and 6 maintained members, including one vacancy in the maintained sector, so no changes are required at this time.

5.8 It should be noted that this situation is likely to change as further schools become academies and a further review will be undertaken after the October census and at each census point going forward.

5.9 New members would be welcomed and there has been some interest in becoming a member of Schools Forum from one academy. Further suggestions /nominations were invited in the June letter referred to in paragraph 5 above and at least one proposal for membership was received from a primary academy. These nominations will be included in any future election if still current at that time.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

6.1 The Slough Schools Forum membership arrangements are in line with good practice for Schools Forums nationally.

Financial Implications

6.2 This report has no financial implications.

Access Implications

6.3 There are no access implications.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

All schools and academies were consulted – see 5 above.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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