

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet

9 March 2015

ITEM 7(i)

**Schools Forum
Constitution**

Portfolio(s): Children, Young People and Learning

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Ian Grayson

Report from Service

Area: Commissioning and Investment

Responsible Officer: Mark Longstaff, Head of Commissioning and Investment (Tel: (0191) 643 8091)

Wards affected: All wards

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to consider proposed updates to the Schools Forum Constitution, following a regular review by an appropriate sub group of the Forum.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (1) Agree to the proposed change in North Tyneside's Schools Forum Constitution as detailed in this report; and
- (2) Authorise the Head of Commissioning and Investment to undertake necessary arrangements to elect representatives to the Schools Forum.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 10 February 2015.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priority in the 2014/18 Our North Tyneside Plan

- Our People will "Be supported to achieve their full potential, especially our children and young people"
- We will be successful if "The gap in educational attainment across the borough has been reduced".

1.5 Information:

- 1.5.1 The Schools Forum was established by virtue of Section 47A of The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (as amended by the Education Act 2002) which required local authorities to constitute a schools forum. The Schools Forum is operated in accordance with the Schools Forums (England) Regulations which are updated annually.
- 1.5.2 The Schools Forum in North Tyneside operates under a Constitution as required by the Regulations, which was last considered by Cabinet on 11 March 2013. Whilst there have not been any significant changes to the Regulations since that time, it is good practice to review the Constitution regularly to ensure it remains up to date.
- 1.5.3 Schools Forum created a sub-group of Head Teachers and Governors to review the Constitution, to take account of any changes to the Regulations as well as the distribution of pupils between schools since its last approval. This sub-group took their recommendations to the Schools Forum meeting on 10 December 2014, which agreed the changes to the Constitution.
- 1.5.4 The main change discussed by the sub-group was around the composition of the membership. The guidance for membership of the Schools Forum is that schools should be represented on a basis that is broadly representative of the distribution of pupils between phase (eg Primary and Secondary Schools) and school type (eg Special Educational Needs, Nurseries and Academies).
- 1.5.5 The total number of pupils had remained broadly consistent since the previous review of membership, but there had been a shift in pupil numbers towards the Primary and First School phase, as well as the creation of new Academies. The proposed membership increases the number of schools representatives by two members and ensures a distribution between school types that is broadly equal to current pupil numbers.
- 1.5.6 Schools Forum also agreed to increase the number of non-school members. This includes a specific place for a Trades Union representative and two representatives from each of the Trusts in the borough.
- 1.5.7 The proposed Constitution is set in Appendix 1, which takes into account the amendments agreed at the Schools Forum meeting on 10 December 2014. The background information section gives a link to the Schools Forum papers, which includes a track change version of the Constitution so that changes from the existing Constitution can be identified.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Agree the recommendations as set out in Section 1.2 of this report.

Option 2

Not to agree to the recommendations as set out in Section 1.2 of this report and request further work is undertaken by officers and Schools Forum.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended as it will ensure that the Regulations governing the Schools Forum are adhered to.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Schools Forum Revised Constitution 9 March 2015

1.9 Contact officers:

Mark Longstaff, Head of Commissioning and Investment, tel (0191) 643 8091
Janice Gillespie, Strategic Manager Finance, tel (0191) 643 5701
Jon Ritchie, Cofely, tel. (0191) 643 5800

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) Schools Forum main report, 10 December 2014:
http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=557167
- (2) Schools Forum draft Revised Constitution, 10 December 2014:
http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=557168
- (3) Schools Forum draft Revised Constitution (track changes), 10 December 2014:
http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=557169

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

Changes outlined in this report relate only to the Constitution of the Schools Forum and have no direct financial implications for the Authority.

2.2 Legal

The Schools Forum was established by virtue of Section 47A of The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (as amended by the Education Act 2002) which required local authorities to constitute a schools forum. The Schools Forum is operated in accordance with the Schools Forums (England) Regulations which are updated annually, most recently through The Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2012 and 2013.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Internal consultation has been undertaken with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning and the Strategic Manager Finance throughout the process.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

Schools Forum approved the Constitution on 10 December 2014.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report. School and non-school representation is based on the Regulations which require all relevant schools and groups to be represented, with representation broadly based on pupil numbers where relevant. Individual representation on the Schools Forum is based on an election within the relevant locality or group.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management issues arising directly from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive x
- Head(s) of Service x
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) x
- Chief Finance Officer x
- Monitoring Officer x
- Head of Corporate Strategy x