

SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM

SUBJECT:	Pending Elections School Funding Forum (SFF)
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SUMMARY OF REPORT:

An update on SFF member elections to be held in May for the vacant positions on the SFF and notification that the annual election for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will take place during March.

1. Background

- 1.1 During the late summer of 2012 the DfE issued new School Funding Forum (SFF) regulations that had to be complied with by the 1 October 2012. Although this was done at short notice with a very challenging time frame for change the SFF at its meeting on the 12 October 2012 complied in full with the new regulations. For full details of the process please refer to Item 4 papers from the meeting on the 12 October which are available on KentTrustWeb. The minutes to the meeting of 12 October ratified the recommendations in the paper.
- 1.2 Item 4 contained a transition plan that detailed the process that would be followed to reflect the proportional representation of Academies and LA schools on the SFF.
- 1.3 This paper provides an update on the progress made towards implementing the transition plan.

2. Number of positions up for election May 2013

- 2.1 Appendix 1 is the transition plan agreed at the meeting in October 12. The following elections will now take place during May, so that positions can be filled for the SFF meeting on the 17 May 2013.

3. Positions up for election

LA Primary School representation

- 3.1 There will be three places up for election. These are made up of one vacant position, a position formerly held by John Bird who is now a representative for academies as his school converted to an academy during the month of February and Alison Coppiters who was elected onto the SFF in January to 2009 and her period of office has come to an end.

LA Secondary School (Non selective) representation

- 3.2 There will be an election for the position currently held by Jane Partridge who was elected to the SFF in September 2010 and who's three year period of office is due to come to an end in September 2013. Although May is within the 3 year period a pragmatic approach has been taken to hold this election early and include with the other elections taking place.

LA Secondary School - Selective representation

- 3.3 There will be an election for the position currently held by Jane Robinson who was elected to the SFF in September 2009 as her period of office has come to an end.

LA Special Schools representation

- 3.4 There will be an election for the position currently held by Roland Gooding who was elected to the SFF in July 2008 as his period of office has come to an end.

LA Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) representation

- 3.5 As part of the National Funding Reforms from 2013-14 PRUs will receive delegated Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budgets and will have a representative on the SFF. An election to appoint a PRU member will take place in due course.

Academies

- 3.6 There will be three places up for election. These are made up of two vacant positions and Neil Willis who joined the SFF prior to January 2009 as the Academies representative on the SFF.

4. Process

- 4.1 An email will be sent out to all of the individual schools and academies in each group during the week ending 8th March. This email will ask for for nominations for the vacant positions by the 19 March.
- 4.2 If there are nominations than vacancies, then an election will be held. If there is a match to the number of nominations and vacancies in a group then the candidate will be notified shortly after the 19 March that they have been successful in their application to become a member of the SFF. If there are no willing candidates for any of the groups the process in 4.1 will be repeated.
- 4.3 Where an election needs to take place as the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, candidates will be requested to submit a photo and short election statement. This information will be collected during the period 20 March to the 28 March. The details submitted from the respective candidates will be displayed on a web page on Kent Trust Web by the 17 April.
- 4.4 An election will then follow during the period 18 April to 30 April and candidates and groups of schools will be notified of the outcome shortly after this date.
- 4.5 The email sent out to schools/academies during week ending the 8 March will include full details of the election process and also guidance on the roll and responsibility of a SFF member.

5. Election for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the SFF

- 5.1 The term of office for the chairperson and vice chairperson comes to an end in March. Elections will take place in order to appoint the chairperson and vice chairperson so that they are in place for the meeting on the 17 May.
- 5.2 The process for election is as follows -Nominations will be sought prior to the meeting following the chairperson and vice chairpersons term of office has come to a conclusion and a vote via email will take place so that the chair and chairperson are in place for the following meeting. In the event of a tie, the successfully candidate will be chosen by a toss of a coin.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Members of the SFF are requested to acknowledge the forthcoming elections, and the timetable of events detailed in this paper.