

## SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM (SFF)

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	SFF Member Elections, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Elections and future meeting dates
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<b>DATE:</b>	30 June 2017

### **SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

The SFF is shortly due to hold both Member elections and Chairperson and Vice Chairperson elections. This paper seeks the views and ultimately recommendation of the SFF on whether the member elections should be postponed until early May 2018 in light of the pending outcome of the National Funding Formula (NFF) consultation and its implications for the future role of the Forum. It also provides SFF meeting dates for the forthcoming academic year September 2017 to August 2018.

<b>FOR:</b>	Decision
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### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The primary purpose of this paper is to gain a consensus on the pending SFF membership elections and seek the view of the SFF as to whether a number of elections should be held in September 2017 or, as an alternative, extend some existing members period of office until May 2018.
- 1.2 The reason for this is the uncertainty around what happens next after the recent NFF consultation. Will it proceed as per the proposals in the consultation and what is the future roll of the SFF which was not addressed in the consultation? Speculation would suggest that the proposals in the consultation will be revised, but to what extent and what is the timeframe for implementation can only be conjecture at this point.
- 1.3 Due to the many unknowns, including the future role of the SFF, would it be the right time to recruit new members to the SFF for a three year term? Also in a period of change it might be prudent to retain current members and not risk losing the wealth of knowledge.

### **2. Representation on the SFF - Number of LA Schools and Academies**

- 2.1 The SFF regulations state that the number of Primary School and Secondary School members on the SFF must be broadly proportionate to the total number of pupils registered against LA Schools and Academies in the LA.
- 2.2 There are 17 SFF elected members representing Primary School and Secondary School phases, this is made up of 3 LA Governors, 4 LA Primary

Schools, 2 LA Secondary Schools and 8 Academies. In total there are 9 LA representatives and 8 Academy representatives.

- 2.3 The split in current pupil numbers is LA schools 48% and academies 52% which generates a new distribution of 8 LA Schools and 9 Academies. The new suggested grouping for the 17 elected members is 2 LA Governors **(-1)**, 4 LA Primary Schools, 2 LA Secondary Schools and 9 Academies **(+1)**.

### 3. The Options

#### Option 1 – Hold elections in September

- 3.1 The following are positions pending election as at the 1 September:
- **LA Primary Schools** – 3 positions, 2 positions held by Ben Cooper and Lynda Downs as their term of office has come to an end and the other is David Whitehead's position as his Federation of Schools is converting to an Academy Trust on the 1 August.
  - **LA Secondary Non- Selective Schools** - 1 position, this was held by Mikala Jeffrey who has now stood down from the SFF
  - **LA Secondary Selective Schools** - 1 position held by Robert Masters, who is retiring at the end of the summer term.
  - **Academies** – 4 positions - 2 positions held by John Dennis and Rosemary Joyce as their term of office has come to an end, 1 position held by John Bird as he retired in February and 1 additional position resulting from the overall increase in academy numbers on the SFF.

#### Option 2 – Extend existing membership and hold elections post SFF meeting on the 27 April 2018

- 3.2 Janice Brooke, Ben Cooper, Lynda Downs, David Whitehead, John Dennis and Rosemary Joyce would continue their terms of office until the 27 April 2018 and then elections for these positions would be held.
- 3.3 In addition to this Mike Tomkins (Headteacher Maidstone Grammar School) would fill the vacancy left by Robert Masters.
- 3.4 This would leave the SFF with 2 vacancies (1 academy and 1 LA Non-selective).
- 3.5 Appendix 1 provides an illustration of options 1 and 2 in a table format.

### 4. Chairperson Election

- 4.1 Depending on whether the SFF opt for option 1 or option 2 will determine when we hold the annual Chairperson and Vice Chairperson elections. If it is option 1, the election will take place after the membership elections in September. If it is option 2 the elections will take place shortly after the SFF meeting to be held on the 27 April 2018.

## **5. Future SFF Dates**

- 5.1 SFF meeting dates for the academic year September 2017 to August 2018, all meeting dates are between 8:00 and 12:00:
- Friday 29 September 2017
  - Friday 1 December 2017
  - Friday 27 April 2018
  - Friday 29 June 2018

## **6. Recommendation**

- 6.1 Members of the SFF are requested to consider options 1 and 2 and make a decision between

1) Member elections should take place in September

Or

2) Period of office should be extended until May 2018