

## SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM (SFF)

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Kent School Funding Forum Guidance Updates
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<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT:</b>	
This report summarises proposed changes to the Kent School Funding Forum Guidance and updates members on new appointments	
<b>FOR:</b>	Information and decision

### 1 Virtual Meetings

- 1.1 As requested at the last meeting a clause has been entered at 6.2 which allows for virtual meetings until they are no longer deemed necessary or when the regulations revert to the requirement to have in person meetings, currently the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

*During the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) the school funding forum regulations allow meetings to take place virtually, and this forum will meet as such until it considers it appropriate to resume in person meetings or the regulations compel such meetings to resume.*

### 2 Timing of Meetings

- 2.1 Following discussions with the chair it is proposed that the March meeting be moved to February. This would allow for outstanding school budget issues to be dealt with ahead of the publication deadline at the end of February. The March meeting, which is after the budgets are published and before the end of the financial year, often lacks a sufficient agenda and has been cancelled several times.
- 2.2 To avoid a significant gap between the Spring and Summer meeting it is also proposed to add an additional meeting in May to allow for a general update including issues emerging from closedown.
- 2.3 These proposed changes are included at 6.1 in the guidance document.

*A full SFF meeting will be held five times a year, the planned meeting dates will be September, December, February, May and July. Future meeting dates for the academic year September to August will be announced at the SFF meeting held in May.*

## **New Members**

At the last meeting it was reported that there are two vacancies for members representing maintained primary schools, one vacancy for a member representing academies and free schools and a vacancy for a local authority representative.

In addition, a new seat was created to represent academy pupil referral units.

A recruitment effort has been undertaken and responses were received from Kate Le Page of The Wells Free School and Richard Rule of The Bourne Partnership. As no other candidates were forthcoming both new members join the forum without the need for an election.

As the Alternative Learning Trust is the only body eligible to put forward a member to the new academy PRU seat they have been contacted to be asked if they would be interested in doing so. A response from Emma Bradshaw the Executive Principle has been received advising that this seat will be taken up and we are awaiting details of the nominee.

It is proposed that a follow up effort is completed after the Christmas break to fill the remaining maintained primary school seat and discussions are ongoing regarding the local authority representative.

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the revised guidance is approved detailing the use of virtual meetings and the revision to the meetings calendar.

It is recommended the forum welcome the two new members Kate Le Page and Richard Rule.

It is recommended the forum note the intention to seek further nominations for the remaining maintained primary school seat in the new year.

It is recommended the forum await details of the new member representing academy pupil referral units.