

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Executive - 14 March 2005

Report from Director of Education, Arts and Libraries

For action

Wards affected:
ALL

Report Title: SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP

Forward Plan Ref: EAL-04/05-0082

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report asks the Executive to approve a minor change to the membership of the Schools Forum from December 2005.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Executive is recommended to agree to delete the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) seat on the Schools Forum and replace it with two new seats, one for a Nursery School Head representative and one for a Nursery School Governor.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Schools Forum was created three years ago. It is not a Committee of the Local Authority, but a separate statutory body set up to provide a formal mechanism for schools' views on funding and other issues to be brought to the attention of the LEA. The Forum is not primarily a decision making body, but it has the power to make recommendations to the Executive and all such recommendations are reported to the Executive in time to be considered at the appropriate budget-making debate.

- 3.2 Most of the representatives on the Forum are heads or governors. The Forum was set up from December 2002 and the membership is elected by its peer group (i.e. primary governors are elected by primary school governing bodies, primary head by the primary head teachers). The election is for a period of three years and so we are about to start the process for electing Forum members from December 2005
- 3.3 The categories of places on the Forum were agreed by the Executive on 17th September 2002. The current position is set out in the table below:

Category	Number Of Places
Primary School Heads	4
Primary School Governors	4
Secondary School Heads	3
Secondary School Governors	3
Special School Heads	1
Special School Governors	1
EYDCP	1
Trade Unions	1
VA Sector	1
Total	19
Observers	
LSC	1
Academy	1
Grand Total	21

- 3.4 Because the nursery schools were not funded through the scheme of delegation when the Forum was originally set up, it was not possible to have specific places for representatives of schools from that sector. In order to ensure that nursery schools were represented however, the Executive agreed an EYDCP seat and asked the EYDCP to nominate a nursery school head. This was done.
- 3.5 Nursery school have been funded through the main devolved funding formula since April 2004 and it is now possible under the School Forum Regulations for nursery schools to have direct representation on the forum. Accordingly, it is proposed that for the forthcoming Forum elections the EYDCP seat be abolished and replace by two new school sector seats, one for a nursery school head and the other for a nursery school governor. This would produce a revised membership as set out in the table below:

Category	Number Of Places
Primary School Heads	4
Primary School Governors	4
Secondary School Heads	3
Secondary School Governors	3
Special School Heads	1
Special School Governors	1
Nursery School Head	1
Nursery School Governor	1
Trade Unions	1
VA Sector	1
Total	20
Observers	
LSC	1
Academy	1
Grand Total	22

3.6 The Executive is asked to approved the revise Forum membership categories as set out in the above table.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There is budget provision of £1,000 to cover the costs of the administration of the Forum and its meetings (normally three or four per year). Increasing the Forum membership by one will have no significant financial implications.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There is a legal requirement on each Local Education Authority (LEA) to create a schools Forum and to take account of its views in the Council's deliberations. The Schools Forums (England) (Amendment) Regulation 2004 requires nursery schools to be represented on the Forum.

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 There are no specific diversity implications other than that the pupils and staff from the nursery schools will come from a diverse range of cultures and backgrounds and the proposals will improve their representation on the Schools Forum.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

7.1 There are no specific staffing issues for the Council arising from this report.

Background Papers

The Schools Forums (England) (Amendment) Regulation 2004
Report to the Executive 17th September 2002: "Schools Forum"

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