

Committee:	Schools Forum
Meeting Date:	22 nd June 2021
Title:	Term of Office – Task and Finish Group Update
Author:	Adrian Orr
Decision making / consultative / information:	Information
Who can vote?	N/A

What is the Forum being asked to decide?

1. There is no formal decision making, this paper is to share information with forum from the Term of Office Task and Finish Group.

Main body of the Report

2. Forum members will recall that at the January meeting the LA asked for volunteers to join a time limited task and finish group to agree an approach for the term of office arrangements for long standing forum members. Term of office arrangements rest with the LA but we believe it is important to use forum expertise in the decision making process.
3. The group met and reviewed the current position and concluded that the term of office for the long-standing members would run until December 2021. This decision was arrived at based upon the need to balance the expertise on forum, given the complex and far-reaching decisions that will need to be made in the next few years and the fact that forum would be losing a number of experienced members in September 2021 through retirement.
4. The group also discussed support for new members joining forum. It was agreed that we would ask experienced forum members to act as mentors for new forum members during their first year of forum membership. This will maximise the knowledge and expertise of the group in supporting new members who join forum. It was also agreed that the LA would revisit more formal induction arrangements for induction and we plan to run an early autumn induction event for those elected to forum in the new academic year.
5. Historically Suffolk Schools Forum has seen a balance between school leaders and governors/trust board members. Both groups bring unique and valuable insight to the work of the forum. It was felt that we need to find ways to retain this balance. It is our intention to share more widely with governors and trust boards the election arrangements as

vacancies become available on forum. We would be seeking support from all sectors for this approach.

6. The task and finish group also had a far-reaching discussion about the importance of diversity on forum. It was agreed that this was more challenging. Forum is a reflection of the leadership and governance community across all sectors in Suffolk and there was an agreement that we all need to work towards leadership and governance arrangements that reflect the communities our schools, setting and colleges serve.