

## **Report to the Schools Forum 16 May 2025**

### **Forum Membership 2025/26 Academic Year**

#### **1 Background**

- 1.1 Most of the specific details of the membership of schools forums are decided locally, but there are general requirements which are set by government regulations. One of these requirements is that the numbers of maintained and academy school members of the Forum must be broadly in line with pupil numbers.
- 1.2 In recent years, a number of maintained T&W schools have converted to academies, which has changed the balance of pupils between the two categories of school. As at the October 2024 census, 56% of pupils were in academies compared to 44% in maintained schools. However, at present, there are more maintained members (ten) than academy members (5). Whilst membership only has to be broadly in proportion to pupil numbers in the two categories of school, at present it is far from meeting this requirement.
- 1.3 We have modelled two ways of adapting T&W's schools Forum membership to meet the requirements, either:
  - retain existing members and increase the number of academy members; or
  - reduce existing maintained members and expand academy members, but to a lesser degree
- 1.4 These two options are illustrated in Appendix A to this paper.
- 1.5 Forum members are invited to express their views on the two options, or any further alternatives that could be considered.

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