

**Schools Forum**  
**Wednesday, 9 December 2020 at 8.00 am**  
**VENUE:** <https://bradford.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

**PLEASE NOTE**

All meetings will be held in public; the agenda, decision list and minutes will be publicly available on the Council's website and Committee Secretariat, Room 112, City Hall, Bradford.

The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted. Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Forum Clerk Asad Shah - 07541 624384 who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place. Those present who are invited to make spoken contributions should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The City Solicitor will report the names of alternate Members who are attending the meeting in place of appointed Members.

**2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

To receive disclosures of interests from Members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it only becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

**3. MINUTES OF 14 OCTOBER 2020 & MATTERS ARISING**

1 - 8

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2020 be signed as a correct record.

**4. MATTERS RAISED BY SCHOOLS**

Members will be asked to consider any issues raised by schools.

5. **STANDING ITEM - DSG SCHOOLS BLOCK GROWTH FUND ALLOCATIONS (a)**

9 - 12

Members will be asked to consider, in **Document MF**, newly proposed allocations to maintained secondary schools and secondary academies from the 2020/21 Schools Block Growth Fund.

**Recommended –**

- (1) **The Schools Forum is asked to agree to allocate a total of £767,028 from the Growth Fund in 2020/21 to maintained secondary schools and secondary academies as set out in Document MF.**
- (2) **Members are asked to note that an indicative total sum of £1,385,575 of surplus balance of Growth Fund is ring-fenced and is forecasted to be carried forward into 2021/22. The Schools Forum will be asked to consider the allocation and / or retention of this balance at the meeting on 13 January.**

*(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)*

6. **IMPLICATIONS - COVID-19 (DISCUSSION CONTINUED) (a)**

13 - 16

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document MG**, which follows from the information previously presented to the Schools Forum, in July and September, to provide an update on the financial implications of COVID-19 for the DSG and schools, academies and other providers.

This report also asks for the Forum's view on possible arrangements for the operation of our Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) in the spring term 2021.

**Recommended –**

- (1) **The Schools Forum is asked to consider and to note the information provided and to present any further points of concern or feedback for the Forum's awareness and consideration.**
- (2) **The Schools Forum is asked for its views on possible EYSFF spring term 2021 arrangements.**

*(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)*

**7. 2020/21 DSG SPENDING AND CARRY FORWARD BALANCES FORECAST (i)** 17 - 26

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document MH**, which updates Members on the forecasted spending positions of each of the DSG Blocks against the 2020/21 planned budgets. This document gives Members a view of the estimated values of balances to be carried forward into 2021/22 and a view of the uses of these balances.

**Recommended –**

**Members are asked to consider whether sufficient information has been provided to enable final recommendations to be made at the meeting on 13 January on the allocation and / or retention of estimated DSG balances.**

*(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)*

**8. 2021/22 DSG UPDATE (i)** 27 - 32

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document MI**, which provides a summary-level indicative forecast of the DSG income / expenditure position for the 2021/22 financial year.

**Recommended –**

**Members are asked to consider the information presented in the report, for reference, in advance of the 13 January meeting.**

*(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)*

**9. CONSULTATION OUTCOMES - SCHOOLS BLOCK FORMULAE 2021/22 (i)** 33 - 40

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document MJ**, which asks Members to consider the outcomes of the consultation on our 2021/22 Schools Block formula funding and Schools Block centrally managed funds.

**Recommended –**

- (1) The Forum is asked to consider the outcomes of the consultation and whether any of the proposals on the 2021/22 primary and secondary mainstream funding formulae, or Schools Block centrally funds and criteria, should be changed in the light of responses.**

- (2) **Members are asked to note that they will be asked to make final recommendations on the Schools Block formulae, and the criteria for the allocation of Schools Block central funds, on 13 January. As such, Members are asked to consider whether sufficient information has now been provided to enable these recommendations to be made.**

*Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)*

**10. EARLY YEARS BLOCK SETTLEMENT & SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA 2021/22 (i)**

41 - 44

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document MK**, and will provide verbally more information to the meeting, on the Early Years Block settlement for 2021/22, which is expected to be announced by the DfE prior to the 9 December. However, this announcement has not been made at the time the agenda and report have been written.

This report also asks Forum Members to consider the consultation on our 2021/22 Early Years Single Funding Formula. Due to how late the 2021/22 Early Years Block settlement and operational guidance have been published, we have not yet engaged in formal consultation with the early years sector. We will work with the Early Years Working Group (EYWG) to publish our proposals as soon as possible. Our consultation will need to extend beyond the 13 January Schools Forum meeting and therefore, our decision making processes on the Early Years Block will need to adjust for this changed timescale.

**Recommended –**

- (1) **The Forum is asked to consider the key elements of the Early Years Block settlement and operational guidance for 2021/22 as presented in Document MK and verbally to the meeting.**
- (2) **Members are asked to note that the Authority, following discussion with the EYWG, will publish a consultation document as soon as possible. However, this consultation will need to extend beyond the 13 January Schools Forum meeting. Therefore, Members are asked to note that our Early Years Block decision making will need to adjust for this. We anticipate presenting to the Forum on 13 January a planned Early Years Block budget for 2021/22 that is based on assumptions and estimates that are made prior to the conclusion of the consultation.**

*(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)*

11. **CONSULTATION OUTCOMES & OTHER MATTERS - HIGH NEEDS 2021/22 (i)** 45 - 54

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document ML**, which asks Forum Members to consider the outcomes of the consultation on the 2021/22 High Needs Funding Model.

Document ML also provides an update on other strategic high needs funding matters - a statement on high needs places sufficiency - as per the schedule of information agreed with the Forum on 14 October. Members are asked to note that the 2019/20 exclusions report, due to the timetable for the census dataset release and analysis, will now be presented to the Forum on 10 March. Please note that the other information to be presented as per the schedule (High Needs Block planned budget and current spending position and balances) is presented under agenda items 7 and 8.

As discussed with the Forum in September, the report also includes an initial consideration of the cost of placements in independent provisions and non-maintained special schools.

**Recommended –**

- (1) The Schools Forum is asked to consider the information provided in respect of wider High Needs funding matters.**
- (2) The Forum is asked to consider the outcomes of the consultation on High Needs Funding for 2021/22 and whether any of the proposals should be changed in the light of responses.**
- (3) Members are asked to note that they will be asked to make their formal recommendations on the structure of the High Needs Block funding formulae on 13 January. As such, Members are asked to consider whether sufficient information has now been provided to enable these final recommendations to be made.**

*(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)*

12. **INDICATIVE BUDGETS 2021/22 PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES (i)** 55 - 64

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document MM**, which provides Members with updated indicative modelling of mainstream Primary & Secondary formula funding delegated budget shares for 2021/22, using the pupil numbers taken from the October 2020 Census. This modelling is tabled only for information at this stage, prior to asking Members to make final recommendations on 13 January.

**Recommended –**

- (1) The Forum is asked to note the Primary and Secondary modelling information. A further update will be provided on 13 January, when Forum Members will be asked to make final recommendations on the values of funding allocated via each formula factor.**
- (2) Members are asked to consider whether sufficient information has been provided to enable final recommendations to be taken on 13 January on the matters presented in this report.**

*(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)*

**13. CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES, EARLY YEARS & SCHOOLS BLOCK FUNDS (i) 65 - 74**

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a follow up report, **Document MN**, which asks Forum Members to further consider the position of the funding of Schools, Central Schools Services and Early Years Block central and de-delegated items in 2021/22, following the initial discussion had in the meeting of 14 October 2020.

**Recommended –**

- (1) Members are asked to note the information provided in the report.**
- (2) Members are asked to consider whether any further information is needed to enable final recommendations and decisions to be taken / made on 13 January on the funding of centrally managed and de-delegated Early Years, Schools and Central Schools Services Block items in 2021/22.**

*(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)*

**14. SCHOOLS FORUM STANDING ITEMS (i)**

Updates on the following Forum standing items will be provided verbally where these have not been covered within other agenda items:

- Schools Forum membership
- Update from the High Needs Block Steering Group
- Update from the Schools Financial Performance Group (SFPG)
- Update on School / Academy Budgets
- Update from the Early Years Working Group (EYWG)
- Update from the Formula Funding Working Group (FFWG)
- Update on Primary School Places

- Update on Academies & Free Schools

**The Forum is asked to note the information provided.**

*(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)*

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Members will be asked for any additional items of business, for consideration at a future meeting.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Please see the published schedule of meetings – the next Forum meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 13 January. A provisional meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 20 January (if this is needed to complete 2021/22 DSG recommendations).

*(a) Denotes an item for action  
(including where a formal view or recommendation is required).*

*(i) Denotes an item for information.*

Signposting of High Needs Information

As per the schedule presented on 14 October 2020, “Forum members are expected to access ‘outside of the Forum meetings’ wider SEND information that is presented to other groups and that is already published, including information presented to the SEND Partnership. The Authority will signpost this information (webpage links) for Forum members at the bottom of agendas.”

- SEND Partnership Board (minutes of meetings):  
<https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/coproduction--feedback/send-strategic-partnership-board->