

Schools Forum
Wednesday, 13 January 2021 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 - 01274 432280 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 Business Advisor (Schools) 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 9 DECEMBER 2020 & MATTERS ARISING

1 - 12

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 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 GROWTH FUND ALLOCATIONS (a)**

There are no new allocations for 2020/21 presented to this meeting.

6. **UPDATED 2021/22 DSG POSITION (i)**

13 - 14

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document MO**, which updates Members on the position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the 2021/22 financial year. This is a main reference document for this meeting.

Recommended –

The Forum is asked to note the information provided. This will inform decisions and recommendations to be made under agenda item 12.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

7. **UPDATED 2020/21 DSG SPENDING AND BALANCES FORECAST (i)**

15 - 18

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present statements, **Document MP** Appendices 1 and 2, which update Members on the forecasted spending positions of each of the DSG Blocks for 2020/21, on the estimated values of balances to be carried forward into 2021/22, and on the proposed uses of these balances.

These statements replace the initial indicative forecasts that were presented to the Schools Forum on 9 December (in Document MH).

Recommended –

The Forum is asked to note the information provided. This will inform decisions and recommendations to be made under agenda item 12.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

8. **CENTRALLY MANAGED AND DE-DELEGATED FUNDS 2021/22 (i)**

19 - 26

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present statements, **Document MQ** Appendices 1, 2 and 3, which set out proposed Schools Block, Central Schools Services Block and Early Years Block centrally

managed and de-delegated funds for the 2021/22 financial year.

The statements at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 replace the indicative information that was presented to the Schools Forum on 9 December (in Document MN).

Appendix 3 newly presents the contributions to be made by each maintained primary and secondary school to de-delegated funds held within the Schools Block and how these compare with the contributions made in 2020/21.

Recommended –

The Forum is asked to note the information provided. This will inform decisions and recommendations to be made under agenda item 12.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

9. CONSULTATION - EARLY YEARS BLOCK FUNDING ARRANGEMENT 2021/22 (i)

27 - 62

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document MR**, which presents the Authority's consultation on proposals for Bradford's 2021/22 Early Years Single Funding Formula. This consultation will go live immediately following this meeting and will have a closing date for responses of 3 February 2020.

This consultation follows from discussions at the 9 December Schools Forum meeting about the knock on implications for our decision making timetable of the late publication by the DfE of the 2021/22 Early Years Block settlement and operational guidance. These were published by the DfE on 17 December.

However, as explained in the report, there are still a number of matters for the 2021/22 financial year that are uncertain and that will likely require further discussion, consultation and decisions. The key outstanding matter is the funding of maintained nursery schools from September 2021.

Recommended –

- (1) The Forum is asked for its formal feedback on the proposals. Members are asked to provide their feedback under agenda item 12. The outcomes of the consultation will be presented to the Forum on 10 March. However, this will be after Council has taken its final decisions on DSG arrangements for 2021/22 on 18 February.**
- (2) Members are asked to note that the recommended allocation of the 2021/22 Early Years Block, and Early Years**

Single Funding Formula arrangements, presented to this meeting are put forward on the basis that the Authority's proposals are implemented. Any variance from this in the final arrangements, as agreed by Council, including changes as result of consultation feedback, will be presented to the Forum on 10 March.

- (3) Members are also asked to note there are still a number of matters for the 2021/22 financial year that are uncertain and that will likely require further discussion, consultation and decisions. The key outstanding matter is the funding of maintained nursery schools from September 2021.**

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

**10. INDICATIVE BUDGETS, FUNDING RATES & PRO-FORMAS
2021/22 (i)**

63 - 88

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document MS**, with Appendices 1-5.

Appendices 1a, 1b and 1c show the indicative values of allocations to be delegated to individual maintained primary and secondary schools and academies within the Schools Block.

Appendix 1d provides an analysis of the change in cost of Schools Block formula funding following the use of the data collected in / based on the October 2020 Census. Modelling previously presented to the Forum has been based on October 2019 Census data.

Appendices 2a, 2b and 2c show the proposed indicative rates of funding for early years settings for the 2021/22 financial year. Please note that the rates of funding for maintained nursery schools, shown in Appendix 2a, are for the period April to August 2021 only at this stage.

Appendix 3 provides a more detailed analysis of how the High Needs Block planned budget has been constructed at individual setting level. Please note however, that Appendix 3 does not show the values of allocations that high needs providers will actually receive in 2021/22 (as these will be based on monthly occupancy during the year).

Appendices 4 and 5 show the draft Primary and Secondary and Early Years pro-formas, which summarise the Authority's proposed formula funding arrangements. Please note that these pro-formas are subject to the final decisions and recommendations to be made by the Schools Forum under agenda item 12 as well as to the finalisation of our early years arrangements, as explained in agenda item 9.

Recommended –

The Forum is asked to note the information provided. This will

inform decisions and recommendations to be made under agenda item 12.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

11. DSG MANAGEMENT PLAN (i)

89 - 102

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document MT**, which sets out the Authority's Management Plan for the DSG. This plan explains the general management principles that guide our decision making and then focuses on High Needs Block matters. Alongside this plan is presented a list of specialist places to be commissioned in 2021/22 and a future year forecast of the High Needs Block.

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) now expects that every authority will present to their Forums, and will regularly update, a Management Plan, which explains their DSG's financial position, the risks of overspending and deficit, and the actions that an authority is taking for deficit avoidance or for deficit recovery, as appropriate. The Plan should also include benchmarking and demand-led data, to provide context to the financial picture and which enables a focus to be retained on value for money. A plan is specifically required where an authority's DSG account is in deficit. In these circumstances, an authority is required to submit its plan to the ESFA. This is not the case in Bradford as our DSG account is in surplus.

A Management Plan template has been provided by the ESFA. We expect to move to use this template in presenting our plan to the Forum in the future.

Recommended –

The Forum is asked to note the information provided. This will inform decisions and recommendations to be made under agenda item 12.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

12. FINAL DECISIONS AND FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS 2021/22 DSG (a)

103 -
116

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present **Document MU**, which summarises the decisions and recommendations that the Schools Forum is asked to make in supporting the Local Authority to set the allocation of the DSG and formula funding arrangements for the 2021/22 financial year. The Forum is asked to take decisions (as required by the Regulations), and to make its final formal recommendations, on the Authority's proposals under the following main headings:

- Schools Block Centrally Managed Funds
- Early Years Block Centrally Managed Funds
- The Central Schools Services Block
- The High Needs Block (including high needs formula funding models)
- The Allocation & Retention of forecasted Balances Brought Forward
- Early Years Block Early Years Single Funding Formula and Pro-Forma
- Schools Block Primary & Secondary Formula Funding and Pro-Forma

Recommended -

- (1) The Forum is asked for its final decisions on identified items as required by the Regulations.**
- (2) The Forum is asked to give its final formal recommendations on the Authority's proposals for the allocation of the 2021/22 DSG, 2021/22 formula funding arrangements, and the treatment of balances forecasted to be carried forward from 2020/21. The Forum's recommendations will be presented to the Council's Executive on 16 February, and then, subject to the Executive's resolution, to full Council on 18 February, as part of the Council's final decision making process.**

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A provisional meeting has been planned (subject to this being needed to complete agenda item 11) to take place on Wednesday 20 January.

The next substantive Forum meeting is planned for Wednesday 10 March 2021.

Please note that the provisional dates of meetings for the 2021/22 academic year are as follows:

- Wednesday 15 September 2021, 8am
- Wednesday 13 October 2021, 8am
- Wednesday 8 December 2021, 8am
- Wednesday 12 January 2022, 8am
- *Wednesday 19 January 2022, 8am PROVISIONAL MEETING*

- Wednesday 9 March 2022, 8am
- Wednesday 18 May 2022, 8am
- Wednesday 6 July 2022, 8am

(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, “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->