

Schools Forum
Wednesday, 15 September 2021 at 8.00 am

VENUE: Held Remotely

https://bradford.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/582799

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 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 7 JULY 2021 & MATTERS ARISING

1 - 10

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2021 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 allocations for consideration at this meeting.

6. SCHOOLS FORUM MEETINGS & MEMBERSHIP - UPDATE (i) 11 - 20

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document NF**, which follows from the report presented to the July meeting (Document MZ) and provides a further update on Schools Forum membership.

Appendix 1 presents the Forum's full current membership at September 2021, following the recent recruitment processes.

As there a number of new members attending the Forum for the first time, this report also reminds members of the Forum's statutory powers (Appendix 2) and highlights how the Forum makes resolutions and takes decisions.

Recommended –

The Schools Forum is asked to consider and to note the information presented.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

7. 'HARD' NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA - DFE CONSULTATION (a) 21 - 90

The Principal Finance Officer (Schools) will present a report, **Document NG**, which presents the DfE's consultation on the proposed transition towards the 'hard' National Funding Formula, which was published on 8 July 2021.

The report at Appendix 2 also presents the Authority's proposed response to this consultation. The Forum is asked to consider whether it wishes to support the Authority's response or to submit its own response.

Recommended -

(a) The Schools Forum is asked to consider the implications of the DfE's movement to 'hard' National Funding Formula and to note the information provided in the report.

- (b) **The Forum is asked to consider whether it wishes to support the Authority's response or to submit its own response to the DfE's consultation.**

(Jonty Holden – 01274 431927)

8. **2022/23 DSG & FORMULA FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS - BRIEFING (i)** 91 - 136

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present Document NH (Appendices 1 and 2), which provides a briefing on the 2022/23 Dedicated Schools Grant settlement and formula funding arrangements, following the DfE's announcement on 19 July 2021.

This report provides important background for the development of our formula funding arrangements for 2022/23.

Recommended –

The Schools Forum is asked to note the information presented and to begin to consider the implications for the 2022/23 DSG budget planning round and formula funding arrangements.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

9. **OUTLINE - FORMULA FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS & CONSULTATIONS 2022/23 (i)** 137 - 144

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document NI**, which outlines the working principles that are being considered in the development of Bradford's formula funding arrangements for 2022/23. The Authority anticipates presenting consultation reports to the Schools Forum at the next meeting, with these consultations being published immediately after. However, Members are asked to note that the consultation on early years entitlement funding arrangements may be delayed due to the timing of the announcement of the Early Years Block settlement and operational guidance.

Responses to consultations are expected to be considered by the Forum at its December meeting. The Schools Forum will then be required to make its final recommendations on 2022/23 DSG and formula funding arrangements at its January 2022 meeting.

In support of these processes:

Forum Members are invited to (remotely) attend a 'Formula Funding Working Group' session, on Tuesday 28 September (8am), Wednesday 29 September (8am) or Tuesday 5 October (8am). As in previous years, these sessions will enable Forum Members to consider in more detail the impact of national formula funding decisions and to

explore and to guide the proposals for 2022/23 for Bradford's Schools and High Needs Block formula funding arrangements that are anticipated will be set out for consultation in October. These FFWG sessions will incorporate considerations relating to the Schools Block Falling Rolls Fund.

The Authority is currently convening the Early Years Working Group to consider more closely our early years entitlement funding arrangements for 2022/23 in advance of the DfE's Early Years Block announcements. Interested Forum members are invited to attend this group.

The Authority will contact the District Achievement Partnership to arrange to discuss directly the proposals for the continuation of the EHCP Banded Model (the special school funding formula) for 2022/23.

Recommended –

- (1) The Schools Forum is asked to consider and to comment on the working principles.**
- (2) Members are invited to attend a 'Formula Funding Working Group' session.**
- (3) Members are invited to attend the Early Years Working Group.**
- (4) The Authority will discuss the proposals for the continuation of the EHCP Banded Model (the special school funding formula) for 2022/23 directly with the District Achievement Partnership.**
- (5) Members are asked for feedback on how best to communicate as early as possible this term with schools and other providers about arrangements for 2022/23 (in advance of more formal consultation beginning in October).**

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

**10. WORK PROGRAMME AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2021/22
ACADEMIC YEAR (i)**

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The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document NJ**, which outlines the School Forum's 2021/22 Academic Year work programme.

Recommended –

The Forum is asked to note the proposed programme and to consider whether any additional items should be added.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

11. 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)

12. AOB / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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