

Schools Forum
Wednesday, 17 May 2023 at 8.00 am

Venue – Remote Meeting

<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 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 Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) 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.

From:
Asif Ibrahim
Director of Legal and Governance
(Monitoring Officer)

To:

Agenda Contact: Asad Shah (Governance Officer)
Committee Secretariat, City Hall, Bradford BD1 1HY
Phone: 01274 432280; E-Mail: asad.shah@bradford.gov.uk

3. **MINUTES OF 8 MARCH 2023 & MATTERS ARISING**

1 - 8

Recommended –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

(Asad Shah – 01274 432280)

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)**

There are no new allocations for consideration at this meeting.

6. **SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP (a)**

9 - 26

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document PV**, which provides an update on the Forum's membership and composition and how the Local Authority will now seek to refresh the Forum's membership.

Members are asked to approve the proposed approach to the election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Schools Forum for the 2023/24 academic year.

This report presents the annual update of the Forum's Conduct of Meeting and Procedures document (Appendix 2). Forum Members are asked to consider and to approve Appendix 2.

Recommended –

- (1) The Schools Forum is asked to consider and to note the information provided.**
- (2) The Schools Forum is asked to approve the proposed approach to the election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Schools Forum for the 2023/24 academic year.**
- (3) The Forum is asked to approve Appendix 2 (Forum Conduct of Meetings and Procedures) for the 2023/24 academic year.**

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

7. **EARLY YEARS BLOCK AND EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS - 15 MARCH BUDGET (a)** 27 - 30

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document PW**, which provides further details of the Government's 15 March 2023 Budget Statement: on the extension of the early years entitlements, on the allocation of additional Early Years Block monies for the delivery of the current entitlements from September 2023, and on the development of wrap-around provision in schools and academies.

At the time of writing this report however, the detailed information, which is required in order for us to decide our responses to the receipt of additional Early Years Block monies for the period September 2023 to March 2024, which is the most immediate matter, is still to be published by the DfE. We therefore, can only outline at this time how we anticipate these additional monies may be allocated and the wider matters that we need to consider. In its consultative role, we ask for views from the Schools Forum on this outline. Depending on the timing of the publication of further details, a report will be presented to the Schools Forum at the next meeting, which will set out how these additional monies will be allocated.

The Authority anticipates presenting a report to the next meeting, which will begin to more closely consider the formula funding changes that may need to be made from, and the financial implications for the DSG and for the Early Years Block of, the extension of the early years entitlements, beginning at April 2024. This will need to be worked through within our 2024/25 DSG and formula funding decision making cycle. The Local Authority expects to convene the Early Years Working group shortly to begin to consider these matters more closely.

Recommended –

- (1) **The Schools Forum is asked to consider and to note the information presented.**
- (2) **The Schools Forum is asked for any initial feedback on the allocation of the additional Early Years Block monies that Bradford will receive for the period September 2023 to March 2024, as outlined in the report.**

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

8. **SCHOOLS BLOCK 'HARD' NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA 2024/25 (i)** 31 - 34

The Principal Officer (Schools) will present a report, **Document PX**, which The Principal Officer (Schools) will present a report, Document PX, which provides an update on the DfE's development of the 'hard' National Funding Formula for the Schools Block. This information is

critical in our development of our 2024/25 DSG and formula funding proposals. It is also critical, as the DfE's SEND Green Paper improvement plan, which was published in March 2023, places emphasis on changes associated with SEND and Alternative Provision funding being managed within the development of the hard National Funding Formula.

Recommended –

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

(Jonty Holden – 01274 431927)

9. MAINTAINED SCHOOLS' OUTTURN (REVENUE BALANCES) 2022/23 (i) 35 - 38

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document PY**, which provides an overview of the position of revenue balances held by maintained schools at 31 March 2023.

Recommended –

The Schools Forum is asked to note the information provided.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

10. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK FINANCIAL FORECAST AND MITIGATION (i) 39 - 46

The Business Advisor (Schools), with support from the Assistant Director, SEND and Inclusion, will present **Document PZ**.

The Local Authority presented the latest version of the Authority's DSG Management Plan to the Schools Forum on 11 January 2023 (Document PP). Within this plan, the Authority stated that our forecast currently identifies that there is clear risk of a cumulative deficit building within our High Needs Block by the end of the 2025/26 financial year, as a result of recurrent structural in-year over spending, and that the risk of cumulative deficit by the end of the 2026/27 financial year is then high. We stated that our forecast identifies that mitigating action will need to be taken in order to prevent the accrual of a cumulative deficit balance within our High Needs Block, and that this will be a piece of work for the Authority to discuss within the Schools Forum during 2023. We indicated that mitigating action will need to be considered within the 2024/25 DSG and formula funding decision making cycle.

The Forum resolved on 11 January, that the Local Authority presents to, and discusses with, the Forum its 'mitigation plan', which is to be developed.

Document PZ provides an update and presents the beginnings of the considerations behind the development of 'mitigating' actions, for the Forum's awareness and review.

Recommended -

- (1) The Schools Forum is asked to consider and to note the information provided.**
- (2) The Schools Forum is asked for its view on if (and how) it wishes to contribute more specifically to the development of a mitigation plan.**

(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.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Schools Forum is planned for Wednesday 12 July 2023.

(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->