

Schools Forum

Wednesday, 13 September 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 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.

3. MINUTES OF 12 JULY 2023 AND MATTERS ARISING

1 - 14

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2023 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. ALLOCATION OF THE EARLY YEARS SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT 2023/24 (i) 15 - 18

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document QE**, which briefs the Schools Forum on the allocation of the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) in 2023/24.

Recommended –

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

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

7. DFE CONSULTATION ON EARLY YEARS BLOCK FUNDING 2024/25 (i) 19 - 26

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document QF**, which briefs the Schools Forum on the DfE's consultation on the Early Years Block for 2024/25 and on the implications of the DfE's proposals for the funding of providers delivering the early years entitlements, as well as for our Early Years Block management. The report provides the Local Authority's response to this consultation, which has been submitted. The deadline for responses was 8 September.

The Early Years Working Group will continue to meet to consider more closely the DfE's proposals, as well as to consider our early years entitlement funding arrangements for 2024/25 in response to these. Interested Forum members are invited to attend this Group.

Members are asked to note that our consultation with providers on our early years entitlement funding arrangements for 2024/25 will not begin immediately following the Forum's October meeting, as is planned for our Schools Block and High Needs Block consultations (please see agenda item 8 below) and depends on the timing of the DfE's announcement of the outcomes of the consultation and the publication of the 2024/25 Early Years Block operational guidance.

Recommended -

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

(2) **Members are invited to attend the Early Years Working Group.**

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

8. **2024/25 DSG & FORMULA FUNDING SUMMER ANNOUNCEMENTS - BRIEFING (i)** 27 - 88

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present **Document QG**, which provides a briefing on the 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant settlement and formula funding arrangements, following the DfE's announcements made on 17 July 2023. This report provides important background for the development of our formula funding arrangements for 2024/25.

Recommended –

The Schools Forum is asked to note the information presented and to begin to consider the implications for the 2024/25 DSG budget planning round and formula funding arrangements.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

9. **OUTLINE - FORMULA FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS & CONSULTATIONS 2024/25 (i)** 89 - 96

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document QH**, which outlines the working principles that are being considered in the development of Bradford's formula funding arrangements for 2024/25 for the Schools and High Needs Blocks.

The Authority anticipates presenting consultation reports, for Schools Block and High Needs Block formula funding arrangements, to the Schools Forum at the next meeting, with these consultations being published immediately after. 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 2024/25 DSG and formula funding arrangements at its January 2024 meeting.

In support of these processes:

Forum Members are invited to (remotely) attend a 'Formula Funding Working Group' session, on Wednesday 27 September (8am) or Thursday 28 September (8am) or Tuesday 3 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 guide the proposals for 2024/25 for Bradford's Schools and High Needs Block formula funding arrangements that are anticipated will be set out for consultation in October.

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 2024/25.

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 asked for feedback on how best to communicate as early as possible this term with schools, academies and other providers about arrangements for 2024/25 (in advance of more formal consultation beginning in October).**

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

10. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK - FORECAST AND MITIGATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT (i)

The Business Advisor (Schools) will provide an update verbally on the current forecast for the High Needs Block and on the development of a strategic mitigation plan. In the May 2023 meeting, the Schools Forum resolved that a working subgroup of Forum members be convened at the point the Authority has developed a draft (or outline) of a strategic mitigation plan. The Authority indicated that work would begin over the summer, in the light of most recent growth data and following confirmation of the 2024/25 DSG High Needs Block settlement, and that we would expect to look to convene a subgroup from the beginning of the autumn term.

Forum members are asked to express their interest (or to confirm where they have previously expressed their interest) in sitting on the working sub-group.

Recommended –

- (1) The Schools Forum is asked to consider and to note the information presented.**
- (2) Members are invited to express their interest in sitting on the working sub-group.**

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

11. WORK PROGRAMME AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2023/24 ACADEMIC YEAR (i)

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document QI**, which outlines the School Forum's 2023/24 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)

12. 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)

13. AOB / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Please see the published schedule of meetings – the next Forum meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 11 October 2023 (City Hall)**.

Please note that the planned dates of meetings for the 2023/24 academic year are as follows:

- Wednesday 13 September 2023, 8am (Remote)
- Wednesday 11 October 2023, 8am (City Hall)
- Wednesday 6 December 2023, 8am (Remote)
- Wednesday 10 January 2024, 8am (City Hall)
- Wednesday 17 January 2024, 8am Provisional Meeting (City Hall)

- Wednesday 6 March 2024, 8am (Remote)
 - Wednesday 22 May 2024, 8am (Remote)
 - Wednesday 10 July 2024, 8am (Remote)
- (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->