

Schools Forum

Wednesday, 6 December 2023 at 0800

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 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 11 OCTOBER 2023 & MATTERS ARISING MINUTES 1 - 12

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2023 be signed as a correct record.

(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)**

13 - 16

As presented in **Document QM**, Forum Members are asked to agree newly proposed allocations, from the 2023/24 Schools Block Growth Fund, to maintained secondary schools and to secondary academies.

Recommended –

- (1) **The Schools Forum is asked to agree to allocate a total of £808,929 from the Growth Fund in 2023/24 to maintained secondary schools and secondary academies, as set out in Document QM. ***
- (2) **Members are asked to note that an indicative total sum of £1,110,677 of surplus balance of Growth Fund is ring-fenced and is forecasted to be carried forward into 2024/25 within the Schools Block. The Schools Forum will be asked to consider the allocation and / or retention of this balance at the meeting on 10 January. ***

** Please note that 6 of the secondary-phase allocations are currently estimated (as indicated), as the October Census numbers have not yet been released to the Authority by the ESFA. The updated spending reports to be presented to the Schools Forum on 10 January will confirm these allocations and the total Growth Fund spend and balance to be carried forward.*

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

6. **BRADFORD CHILDREN AND FAMILY TRUST (I)**

The Executive Director, Social Care and Practice, will present an overview and update on work of the Children and Families Trust. This presentation was accepted by the Forum as an AOB item in the May 2023 meeting.

7. **EARLY YEARS BLOCK SETTLEMENT & EYSFF CONSULTATION 2024/25 (I)**

17 - 20

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document QN**, which provides an update on Early Years Block formula funding matters.

We are working to present a consultation document to the Forum's

meeting to be held on 10 January. On this basis, our period of consultation on the 2024/25 EYSFF will need to extend beyond the 10 January (the meeting at which the Schools Forum makes its recommendations on the 2024/25 DSG and formula funding arrangements). As we have done in the last few years therefore, we anticipate presenting to the Forum on 10 January a planned Early Years Block budget for 2024/25, which will be based on assumptions and estimates that are made prior to the completion of our consultation.

Recommended –

Members are asked to consider and to note the information presented in the report.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

8. CONSULTATION OUTCOMES - SCHOOLS BLOCK FORMULA FUNDING 2024/25 (I) 21 - 22

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document QO**, which asks Members to consider the feedback received to the consultation on our 2024/25 Schools Block formula funding arrangements and Schools Block centrally managed funds.

Recommended –

- (1) The Forum is asked to consider the responses received to the consultation and whether any of the proposals on the 2024/25 primary and secondary mainstream funding formulae, or Schools Block centrally funds and criteria, should be changed in the light of these 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 10 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)

9. INDICATIVE BUDGETS 2024/25 PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES (I) 23 - 32

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document QP**, which provides Members with updated indicative modelling of mainstream Primary & Secondary formula funding delegated budget shares for 2024/25, now using the pupil numbers taken from the October 2023 Census. This modelling is tabled only for information at

this stage, prior to asking Members to make final recommendations on 10 January.

Recommended –

- (1) **The Forum is asked to note the Primary and Secondary modelling information. A further update will be provided on 10 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 10 January on the matters presented in this report.**

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

10. CONSULTATION OUTCOMES - HIGH NEEDS BLOCK FORMULA FUNDING 2024/25 (I) 33 - 34

The Principal Finance Officer (Schools) will present a report, **Document QQ**, which asks Forum Members to consider the feedback received to the consultation on the 2024/25 High Needs Funding Model.

Recommended –

- (1) **The Forum is asked to consider the responses received to the consultation and whether any of the proposals on the 2024/25 high needs funding formulae, should be changed in the light of these responses.**
- (2) **Members are asked to note that they will be asked to make final recommendations on High Needs Block formula funding on 10 January. As such, Members are asked to consider whether sufficient information has now been provided to enable these recommendations to be made.**

(Dawn Haigh – 01274 433775)

11. 2024/25 DSG UPDATE (I) 35 - 40

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document QR**, which provides a summary-level indicative forecast of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) income / expenditure position for the 2024/25 financial year.

Recommended –

Members are asked to consider the information presented in the report, for reference, in advance of the 10 January meeting.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

12. 2023/24 DSG SPENDING AND CARRY FORWARD BALANCES FORECAST (I) 41 - 52

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document QS**, which updates Members on the forecasted spending positions of each of the DSG Blocks against the 2023/24 planned budget. This document gives Members a view of the estimated values of balances to be carried forward into 2024/25 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 10 January on the allocation and / or retention of estimated DSG balances.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

13. ANNUAL SEND PLACES SUFFICIENCY STATEMENT (I) 53 - 54

The Strategic Manager, Intelligence and Sufficiency will present a report, **Document QT**, which is the annual statement to the Schools Forum on the sufficiency of specialist places for SEND.

This statement is presented as per the schedule of high needs information, which was agreed with the Schools Forum on 14 October 2020. It is presented in advance on an update of the fuller DSG Management Plan, which will be presented on 10 January.

Recommended –

Members are asked to consider and to note the information presented in the report, in advance of the 11 January meeting.

(Emma Hamer – 01274 439535)

14. CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES, EARLY YEARS & SCHOOLS BLOCK FUNDS (I) 55 - 68

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document QU**, which asks Forum Members to further consider the Authority's proposals for retention of Schools, Central Schools Services and Early Years Block central and de-delegated items in the 2024/25 financial year, following the initial discussion had in the last Forum meeting and

in advance of the 10 January.

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 10 January on the funding of centrally managed and de-delegated Early Years, Schools, and Central Schools Services Block items in 2024/25.**

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

15. 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)

16. AOB / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Please see the published schedule of meetings – the next Forum meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10 January (City Hall).

A provisional meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 17 January (if this is needed to complete 2024/25 DSG recommendations).

For planning purposes, the provisional schedule for Schools Forum meetings for the 2024/25 academic year has now been set, as follows:

- Wednesday 11 September 2024, 8am
- Wednesday 9 October 2024, 8am
- Wednesday 4 December 2024, 8am
- Wednesday 15 January 2025, 8am
- *Wednesday 22 January 2025, 8am (provisional meeting)*
- Wednesday 12 March 2025, 8am
- Wednesday 21 May 2025, 8am
- Wednesday 9 July 2025, 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 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->