

# Report of the Director of Children's Services to the meeting of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on 24 January 2017.

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**AD**

**Subject:**

Schools Forum Update

**Summary statement:**

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has asked for a regular update on the work of the Schools Forum.

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**Portfolio:**

**Children's Services**

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**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**Children's Services**



## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Committee has asked for regular updates to be provided on the work of the Schools Forum.
- 1.2 The last update was presented to the Committee on 1 November 2016. The Schools Forum has met twice since on 7 December 2016 and 11 January 2017. The decisions list from the 11 January meeting will be circulated (Appendix 2). This was the key meeting at which the Schools Forum has made its recommendations on the allocation of the 2017/18 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 1.3 The Schools Forum's recommendations will be presented to the Executive and then to full Council for final decisions on 23 February 2017.
- 1.4 The Government's response to its consultation on the reform of Early Years funding was published on 1 December 2016.
- 1.5 The Government's 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of consultation on Schools and High Needs Block National Funding Formula arrangements was published on 14 December 2016. The deadline for responses to this consultation is 22 March 2017.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Under national Regulations, every local authority is required to operate a Schools Forum. The primary function of a Schools Forum is to recommend to the Council's Executive Committee how the funding, which the Government provides for schools and individual pupils (known as the Dedicated Schools Grant), is managed. The Forum also has some specific technical decision making powers. The DfE has stressed that it is essential that Forum membership arrangements keep pace with the changing landscape, in particular the conversion of maintained schools to academy status. The Forum must consider annually how best to provide for responsive arrangements, to ensure the Forum remains representative and to avoid any unintended bias towards any one phase.
- 2.2 22 maintained schools have converted to academy status between 1 September 2016 and 1 January 2017. There are currently 9 academy members on Bradford's Schools Forum, alongside 18 representatives of maintained schools.
- 2.3 The Schools Forum meets every half term with an additional meeting in the autumn.

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Appendix 1 gives an impact assessment briefing on the DfE's updated proposals for a National Funding Formula for primary and secondary schools and academies and for the High Needs Block. It is anticipated that the Committee will wish to focus its attention on this assessment at this meeting.



3.2 Due to the timing for publication, the outcomes of the School Forum's key 11 January meeting and its recommendations on the 2017/18 DSG are not known at the time of writing of this report. The key outcomes are set out in Appendix 2 (to be circulated) and further key messages will be reported directly to the meeting.

#### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

#### **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

#### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

#### **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

##### **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

##### **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

##### **7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

##### **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

##### **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

##### **7.6 TRADE UNION**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

##### **7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.



**7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS  
(for reports to Area Committees only)**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

**8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None

**9. OPTIONS**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**10.1 Committee Members are asked to consider and to note the information provided in this update.**

**11. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – National Funding Formula Briefing Note

Appendix 2 – Decisions List 11 January 2017 Schools Forum Meeting (to be circulated)

**12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

