

Report of the Director of Children's Services to the meeting of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on 17 January 2018.

V

Subject:

Schools Forum Update

Summary statement:

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

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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 22 November 2017. The Schools Forum has met twice since on 6 December 2017 and 10 January 2018. The decisions lists from these meetings are attached at Appendices 1 and 2. Due to the timing for publication of this report Appendix 2 will be circulated to Members following its initial publication and further key messages on will be reported verbally directly to the meeting.
- 1.3 **The Schools Forum has made its recommendations on the allocation of the 2018/19 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) on 10 January. These recommendations will be presented to the Executive and then to full Council for final decisions on 22 February 2018.**

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 33 maintained schools converted to academy status between 1 September 2016 and 1 September 2017. A further 2 schools converted on 1 October and 1 on 1 December 2017. We now have 82 primary / secondary academies and 107 primary / secondary maintained schools. The composition of the Schools Forum has been reviewed in the light of the number of pupils in maintained and academy settings. There are currently 13 academy members on Bradford's Schools Forum, alongside 14 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 Please see especially Appendix 2 (decisions list from the 10 January Schools Forum meeting), which lists the recommendations that have been made on the allocation of the 2018/19 DSG.

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.

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 – Schools Forum meeting 6 December 2017 Decisions List

Appendix 2 – Schools Forum meeting 10 January 2018 Decisions List – to be circulated when available

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None