

Schools Forum Meetings Schedule & Work Programme for the 2021/22 Academic Year

Schedule of Meetings

- **Wednesday 15 September 2021, 8am**
- **Wednesday 13 October 2021, 8am**
- **Wednesday 8 December 2021, 8am**
- **Wednesday 12 January 2022, 8am**
- **Wednesday 19 January 2022, 8am PROVISIONAL MEETING**
- **Wednesday 9 March 2022, 8am**
- **Wednesday 18 May 2022, 8am**
- **Wednesday 6 July 2022, 8am**

Proposed Work Programme

Autumn Term 2021

Key Dates / Announcements

- 30 September – Deadline for responses to the DfE's 'hard' National Funding Formula consultation.
- November / December - expected announcements following the autumn spending settlement, covering early years and post 16 funding for 2022/23 as well as wider recurrent grants e.g. Pupil Premium Grant
- Autumn - expected announcements and consultations on outcomes of the national SEND and Alternative Provision system and funding reviews.
- Autumn - expected announcements relating to the DSG & maintained school 'transparency' reforms.
- 7 October 2021 – Schools' October Census.
- Mid December – ESFA publication of pupil numbers & other data from October Census on which 2022/23 allocations will be calculated.
- Mid December – DfE to confirm 2022/23 DSG allocation.

Key Planned Business

- Consideration of the 2022/23 Schools Block, High Needs Block and Central Schools Services Block settlements for 2022/23 (announced in July) and operational guidance for formula funding.
- Consideration of the implications of the 'hard' National Funding Formula reforms & our responses to consultations. Work-streams from these announcements.
- Consideration of the implications of the SEND and Alternative Provision system and funding reviews & our response to consultations. Work-streams from these announcements.
- Consideration of the autumn spending review & implications for early years entitlement funding, post 16 funding and for the position of recurrent grants in 2022/23.
- High Needs Block affordability, strategic development of places and alternative provision. High Needs Block places commissioning for 2022/23. Consideration of the annual places sufficiency report.
- Continued consideration of other wider High Needs Block strategic matters e.g. funding of continuing care.
- Early Years Single Funding Formula review for 2022/23, and other early years funding matters, including the position of the protected funding of maintained nursery schools.
- High Needs delegated funding model review for 2022/23.
- Update of Bradford's DSG management plan.
- Bradford's Primary, Secondary, Early Years and High Needs 2022/23 formula funding consultations & consideration of responses. The Schools Forum to agree the formulae for the 2022/23 financial year.
- The review of items to be de-delegated / held centrally within the DSG for 2022/23.
- Consideration of the Council's wider budget position 2022/23, including COVID-19 recovery programmes.
- Update on 2021/22 DSG contingencies and central funds actual and forecasted spending (view on values of DSG balances to be held at the end of 2021/22).
- Continued discussion on matters relating to under-subscription of mainstream primary & secondary schools and academies (Falling Rolls Fund matters).
- Growth Fund allocations for the 2021/22 academic year (secondary phase).

- Continued consideration of the financial impact of COVID-19 on the DSG (and schools, academies, early years and other providers funded by the DSG).
- Consideration of changes to be implemented by the ESFA aimed at improving transparency within the DSG and maintained school financial arrangements (including Scheme for Financing Schools amendments).

Spring Term 2022

Key Dates / Announcements

- 20 January – Schools' January Census & Early Years Census.
- 21 January – deadline for the submission of the final APT to the ESFA, with values of the Schools Block mainstream formula factors fixed at this point.
- March publication of final Post 16 allocations for 2022/23.
- 28 February – deadline for publication of 2022/23 budgets for maintained schools (not including early years funding).
- 31 March – deadline for publication of 2022/23 Early Years Single Funding Formula allocations.
- 30 April – completion of S251 Budget Statement to the DfE.

Key Planned Business

- Matters carried from the Forum's autumn term meetings.
- The Forum's final and formal recommendations on all aspects of DSG funding for 2022/23, including school & early years budgets, high needs and centrally managed items. The Forum to exercise its statutory powers.
- Further consideration of the implications of the 'hard' National Funding Formula reforms & our responses to consultations (expected further consultations on 2023/24 arrangements). Work-streams from these announcements.
- Further consideration of the implications of the SEND and Alternative Provision system and funding reviews & our response to consultations. Work-streams from these announcements.
- Update of Bradford's DSG management plan.
- Continued detailed work on the High Needs Block funding and provision matters (strategic multi-year financial planning).
- Evaluation of the impact / anticipated impact of 2022/23 DSG recommendations.
- Close review of the position of the Early Years Block in 2021/22 following the change in DfE methodology for funding (COVID-19).
- Consideration of the 2020/21 Exclusions Report.
- Review of Scheme for Financing Schools for 2022/23 (and directed revisions).
- Review of Schools Forum membership and composition for September 2022. Responses to any directed Schools Forum Regulations changes (including from the National Funding Formula review).
- Continued discussion on issues related to falling rolls and under subscription (in particular across early years and primary phases).
- Agreement of allocations from the 2021/22 Schools Block Falling Rolls Fund.
- Consideration of the annual report on outcomes for Children Looked After, incorporating the impact of our Pupil Premium funding strategy.
- Further information, discussion and consideration of the financial impact of the conversion of maintained schools to academy status.
- Consideration of wider DSG and school / academy budget-level cost pressures in 2022/23, implications and strategies for supporting these.

Summer Term 2022

Key Dates / Announcements

- 1 April – closedown of maintained school accounts for the 2021/22 financial year (carry forward balances).
- 15 May – deadline for submission of Governor Approved Budgets (maintained schools) for 2022/23 to the Local Authority.
- 19 May – Schools' May Census.
- Early Years DSG Block updated for January 2022 pupil numbers.

Key Planned Business

- Matters carried from the Forum's spring term meetings.
- Further consideration of Forum membership for September 2022 & election of the Chair & Vice Chair of the Schools Forum. Annual review of the Forum's conduct of meetings and procedural matters document.
- Anticipated significant volume of review work and discussion required for our 2023/24 DSG funding arrangements (begin these earlier than usual).

- Continued consideration of the implications of the 'hard' National Funding Formula reforms & our responses to consultations. Work-streams from these announcements for 2023/24 arrangements.
- Continued consideration of the implications of the SEND and Alternative Provision system and funding reviews & our response to consultations. Work-streams from these announcements for 2023/24 arrangements e.g. our high needs delegated funding models.
- Continued consideration of our early years entitlement funding arrangements and the financial position of the Early Years Block.
- Update of Bradford's DSG management plan.
- Continued detailed work on the High Needs Block funding and provision matters (strategic multi-year financial planning).
- Update on compliance of maintained schools with the Schools Financial Value Standard.
- Review of school balances held at 31 March 2022 (maintained schools).
- Initial confirmation of DSG balances held at the end of 2021/22.
- Update on pupil planning and the impact of Academies & Free Schools. Continued discussion on issues related to falling rolls and under subscription (in particular across early years and primary phases).
- Continued consideration of the financial impact of COVID-19 on the DSG (and schools, academies, early years and other providers funded by the DSG).