

## Schools Forum Meetings Schedule & Work Programme for the 2022/23 Academic Year

### Schedule of Meetings

- Wednesday 14 September 2022, 8am REMOTE
- Wednesday 12 October 2022, 8am CITY HALL
- Wednesday 7 December 2022, 8am REMOTE
- Wednesday 11 January 2023, 8am CITY HALL
- *Wednesday 18 January 2023, 8am PROVISIONAL MEETING* CITY HALL
- Wednesday 8 March 2023, 8am REMOTE
- Wednesday 17 May 2023, 8am REMOTE
- Wednesday 12 July 2023, 8am CITY HALL

### Proposed Work Programme

#### Autumn Term 2022

##### **Key Dates / Announcements**

- 9 September – Deadline for responses to the DfE's 'hard' National Funding Formula consultation.
- 16 September – Deadline for responses to the DfE's Early Years Block 2023/24 consultation.
- October to December - expected announcements, following the autumn spending settlement, covering post 16 funding for 2023/24, as well as wider recurrent grants e.g. Pupil Premium Grant
- Autumn - expected further consultations and announcements on the outcomes of the DfE's national SEND and Alternative Provision system and funding reviews, following the summer term consultation.
- Autumn – expected further announcements and consultations on the development of the Schools Block (and Central Schools Services Block) 'hard' National Funding Formula.
- 6 October 2022 – Schools' October Census.
- Mid December – ESFA publication of the dataset from October Census, on which 2023/24 financial year allocations for mainstream primary and secondary schools / academies will be calculated.
- Mid December – DfE to confirm our 2023/24 DSG allocation.

##### **Key Planned Business**

- Consideration of the 2023/24 Schools Block, Early Years Block, High Needs Block and Central Schools Services Block settlements for 2023/24 and operational guidance for formula funding. Key messages for schools, academies and other providers.
- Consideration of the implications of the 'hard' National Funding Formula reforms. Work-streams from announcements.
- Consideration of the implications of the SEND and Alternative Provision system and funding reviews. Work-streams from announcements.
- Consideration of the autumn spending review & implications for e.g. post 16 funding and for the position of recurrent grants in 2023/24.
- High Needs Block affordability, strategic development of places and alternative provision. High Needs Block places commissioning for 2023/24. Consideration of the annual places sufficiency statement.
- Continued consideration of wider High Needs Block strategic matters e.g. the funding of continuing care. This also includes the position of the High Needs Block surplus balance.
- Early Years Single Funding Formula review for 2023/24, and other early years funding matters, including the position of the protected funding of maintained nursery schools.
- High Needs delegated funding model review for 2023/24.
- Bradford's Primary, Secondary, Early Years and High Needs 2023/24 formula funding consultations & consideration of responses. The Schools Forum to agree the formulae for the 2023/24 financial year.
- The review of items to be de-delegated / held centrally within the DSG for 2023/24.
- Consideration of the Council's wider (Children's Services) budget position 2023/24.
- Update on 2022/23 DSG contingencies and central funds actual and forecasted spending (view on values of DSG balances to be held at the end of 2022/23).

- Continued discussion on matters relating to under-subscription of mainstream primary & secondary schools and academies (Falling Rolls Fund matters).
- Growth Fund allocations for the 2022/23 academic year (secondary phase).
- Consideration of any further 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 2023

### **Key Dates / Announcements**

- 19 January – Schools' January Census & Early Years Census.
- 20 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 2023/24.
- 28 February – deadline for publication of 2023/24 budgets for maintained schools (not including early years funding).
- 31 March – deadline for publication of 2023/24 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 2023/24, including school & early years budgets, high needs and centrally managed items. The Forum to exercise its statutory powers. Evaluation of the anticipated impact of 2023/24 DSG recommendations.
- Further consideration of the implications of the 'hard' National Funding Formula reforms. Continuation of work-streams.
- Further consideration of the implications of the SEND and Alternative Provision system and funding reviews. Continuation of work-streams.
- Update of Bradford's DSG management plan.
- Continued detailed work on the High Needs Block funding and provision matters (strategic multi-year financial planning).
- Consideration of the 2021/22 Exclusions Report.
- Review of Scheme for Financing Schools for 2023/24 (and directed revisions).
- Review of Schools Forum membership and composition for September 2023. 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 2022/23 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 2023/24, implications and strategies for supporting these.

## Summer Term 2023

### **Key Dates / Announcements**

- 1 April – closedown of maintained school accounts for the 2022/23 financial year (carry forward balances).
- 15 May – deadline for submission of Governor Approved Budgets (maintained schools) for 2023/24 to the Local Authority.
- 18 May – Schools' May Census.
- Early Years DSG Block updated for January 2023 pupil numbers.

### **Key Planned Business**

- Matters carried from the Forum's spring term meetings.
- Further consideration of Forum membership for September 2023 & 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 2024/25 DSG funding arrangements (begin these earlier than usual).
- Continued consideration of the implications of the 'hard' National Funding Formula reforms. Work-streams from consultations / announcements for 2024/25 arrangements.

- Continued consideration of the implications of the SEND and Alternative Provision system and funding reviews. Work-streams from consultations / announcements for 2024/25 arrangements e.g. our high needs delegated funding model.
- Continued consideration of our early years entitlement funding arrangements and the financial position of the Early Years Block.
- Continued detailed work on the High Needs Block funding and provision matters (strategic multi-year financial planning).
- Review of school balances held at 31 March 2023 (maintained schools).
- Initial confirmation of DSG balances held at the end of 2022/23.
- 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).