

# Schools Forum

## PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Tuesday, 21st January, 2025  
at 4.00 pm

Virtual Meetings - Virtual meeting

This meeting is open to the public

LEAD OFFICER  
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## AGENDA

### 1 **WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

### 2 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 1 - 8)

Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009, attached.

### 3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

NOTE: Members are reminded that, where applicable, they must complete the appropriate form recording details of any such interests and hand it to the Democratic Support Officer.

### 4 **MATTERS ARISING**

To consider Matters Arising from the previous meeting.

### 5 **RATIONALE AND IMPACT OF THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM SCHOOLS BLOCK TO CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK (CF)** (Pages 9 - 22)

To provide rationale and accountability measures for the impact of the financial transfer from the Schools Block to the Central School Services Block, to consider the continuation of this transfer.

### 6 **EXPLANATORY NOTE ON THE MATTER OF SCHOOL ADMISSIONS LINE IN CENTRAL SERVICES BLOCK (MATTER ARISING) - ZS** (Pages 23 - 46)

Review of Delegated School Budget Allocations for Admission Services by a Schools Forum delegate.

### 7 **LOCAL FUNDING FORMULA 2025-26 (SW)** (Pages 47 - 54)

To advise Schools Forum about the services funded from the Central Services Block (CSSB) in 2025/26 and the approvals required by Schools Forum. Also, to update the Schools Forum on the latest 2025/26 funding arrangements announced by the DfE, which provides Schools Forum the detailed funding options to be considered for approval. The Schools Forum is requested to deliberate and decide on key matters concerning the allocation of the Schools Block for the 2025/26.

### 8 **SCHOOLS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY GRANT**

To note a report detailing the proposed distribution of the schools in financial difficulty grant.

**9 EARLY YEARS BLOCK UPDATE (Pages 55 - 56)**

To provide information on initial 2025/26 early years budgets announced in December 2024 by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

**10 SEND/HIGH NEEDS BLOCK UPDATE (JH) (Pages 57 - 66)**

The Forum is asked to note; the updated EHCP demand forecast, the current position on the High Needs Block and deficit and, the HNB projections for next year and pressures moving forward. Additionally, the Forum is asked to note; the report on the Time Limited Mainstream Inclusion Grant and updates on the £740m capital grant for mainstream school enhancements and resourced provisions.

**11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSING REMARKS AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Schools Forum is Wednesday 2 April 2025, 4pm to 6pm.

Monday, 13 January 2025

Service Lead, Education and Early Help,