

AGENDA

Meeting: Schools Forum

Place: Conference Suite, 1st Floor, County Hall, Trowbridge

Date: Thursday 18 January 2024

Time: 1.30 pm

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Lisa Pullin, Tel 01225 713015 or email committee@wiltshire.gov.uk of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN.

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225) 713114/713115.

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Membership:	Representing:
Aileen Bates	WGA - Special School Governor Representative
Lyssy Bolton	Early Years Representative
TBC	Observer - Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum
Andy Bridewell	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative
Helen Carpenter	Chair of WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
Rebecca Carson	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Michele Chilcott	WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
Stella Fowler	WGA - Primary School Governor Representative
Jo Grenfell	Observer - Post 16, Wiltshire College
John Hawkins	Teaching Association Representative
Cllr Ross Henning	Observer - Local Youth Network
Georgina Keily-Theobald	WASSH - Maintained Special School Representative
Graham Nagel-Smith	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Nick Norgrove	WASSH - Maintained Secondary School Representative
Lisa Percy	Secondary Academy Representative
Giles Pugh	Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education Representative
John Read	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative
Graham Shore	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Trudy Srawley	Observer - Wiltshire Parent Carer Council
Ros Sutton	WGA - Primary School Governor Representative
Mike Thomas	WASSH - Special School Academy Representative
Karen Venner	Early Years Representative
David Whewell	WGA - Secondary School Governor Representative
Catrina Williamson	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative

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PART I

Items to be considered whilst the meeting is open to the public

1 **Apologies, Substitutions and any Changes of Membership**

To note any apologies, substitutions and changes to the membership of Schools Forum.

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 9 - 18*)

To approve as a correct record and sign the Part I (public) minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2023 (copy attached).

3 **Chair's Announcements**

To receive any announcements from the Chair.

4 **Declaration of Interests**

To note any declarations of interests.

5 **Public Participation**

Schools Forum welcomes contributions from members of the public who are able to ask questions or make a statement in relation to the responsibilities and functions of the Forum at each meeting. A maximum of 15 minutes will be allocated to this at the start of each meeting, and each question or statement should last no longer than 3 minutes. Please register with the Officer named on this agenda, and in accordance with the deadlines below.

Statements

Members of the public who wish to submit a statement in relation to an item on this agenda should submit this electronically to the Officer named on the agenda **no later than 5pm on Tuesday 16 January 2024**. Statements must not be defamatory, frivolous, offensive, vexatious, unlawful or otherwise improper. They must not name or identify individual service users, members of staff or members of partner agencies.

Questions

Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions to the Officer named on the front of this agenda **no later than 5pm on Thursday 11 January 2024** to allow a response to be formulated. Questions are limited to a maximum of 2 per person/organisation. A response will be given as either a direct oral answer or a written reply. Questions must not require the disclosure of confidential information. The Chair's ruling on rejection of a question is final.

6 **Updates from Working Groups** (*Pages 19 - 22*)

The Forum will be asked to note the minutes/updates from the following meetings:

- Joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group – 8 January 2024 (*attached*)
- Early Years Reference Group – 8 January 2024 (*to follow*)

7 **Update on FACT (Families and Children Transformation) Programme**

Schools Forum will receive an update on the FACT programme from Simon Thomas (FACT Programme Lead).

8 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2023-24** (*Pages 23 - 28*)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) seeks to present budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2023-24 as at 30 November 2023.

9 **School Budget Setting 2024-25**

To consider the budget for 2024-25.

The following update reports provide details on the overall funding settlement on each of the funding blocks, the decisions will be made after consideration of all the update papers via the decision matrix.

9a **School Revenue Funding 2024-25 - Funding Settlement and Budget Setting Process** (*Pages 29 - 38*)

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to update Schools Forum on the revenue funding settlement and the budget setting process for 2024-25.

9b **Dedicated Schools Budget - Schools Block Update 2024-25 (Delegated Budget)** (*Pages 39 - 46*)

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to update Schools Forum on issues relating to the schools delegated budget for 2024-25 and the decisions that need to be made as part of the budget setting process.

9c **Dedicated Schools Budget - High Needs Block Update 2024-25** (*Pages 47 - 56*)

The report of Liz Williams (High Needs Block Sustainability Finance Lead) seeks to update Schools Forum on issues relating to the high needs block for 2024-25 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process.

9d **Dedicated Schools Grant - Early Years Block Update 2024-25 (Indicative Allocations)** (*Pages 57 - 72*)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) seeks to update Schools Forum on issues relating to the early years block for 2024-25 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2024-25.

9e **Dedicated Schools Budget - Central School Services Block
Update 2024-25** *(Pages 73 - 84)*

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) seeks to update Schools Forum on issues relating to the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) budget for the 2024-25 financial year and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process.

10 **School Budget Decisions 2024-25**

Schools Forum will be asked to consider the Schools Budgets for 2024-25 and make relevant decisions using the decisions matrix.

11 **Safety Valve Programme Update** *(Pages 85 - 94)*

The report of Liz Williams (High Needs Block Sustainability Finance Lead) seeks to update on the draft Safety Valve plan and highlight the changes that were made, in response to Department for Education feedback, in advance of 12 January 2024 submission. This version will now go forward for Secretary of State approval and to form the basis of a Safety Valve Deal for Wiltshire.

12 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

To confirm the dates of future meetings, as follows to start at 1.30pm:

14 March 2024
27 June 2024
10 October 2024
12 December 2024
23 January 2025
13 March 2025.

13 **Urgent Items**

To consider any other items of business, which the Chair agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

14 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To consider passing the following resolution:

To agree that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the business specified in Item Number 15 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

PART II

Item(s) during consideration of which it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

15 **Schools Forum Minutes** (*Pages 95 - 108*)

To approve as a correct record and sign the Part II (confidential) minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2023 (copy attached).