

To: **Schools Forum**
14 November 2024

Schools Forum Work Planning
Chair: Schools Forum

1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present an outline of planned work for the Schools Forum together with the key priorities as identified by head teachers.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 Schools Forum is a statutory body that holds decision making powers as well as a leading consultative role for schools and education providers on a range of financial matters.

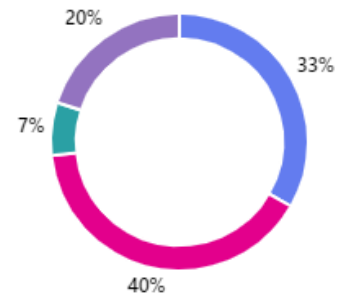
2.2 A number of the key considerations and decisions to be taken follow an annual cycle, and as such, can be planned into an expected work programme. There are also occasions when information needs to be presented or views obtained that are of a more unpredictable nature. The following table presents an outline of the normal annual cycle of meetings.

DATE OF VIRTUAL MEETING	ESSENTIAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED	OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, BUT CAN BE PRESENTED WHEN CONVENIENT
June	<u>Subject to DfE decisions:</u> Update on national changes to School Funding, including High Needs Block (HNB) and Early Years Block (EYB) as relevant information emerges. BFC proposals for consultation with local schools e.g. de-delegation, feedback outcomes from BFC local school's consultations	Individual school balances, Schools Budget outturn performance, report on prior year in-year budget allocations to schools, Schools Budget current year budget performance to date, Proposals of support to schools in financial difficulty, Education and CSC financial benchmarking (S251 statements), Education Funding policies, including New Schools
September		
November		
December	Updated proposals for next year's Schools / EYB / HNB Budget if ready. Initial proposals for HNB Budget.	Ad hoc matters, e.g. Changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools, Updates on School Funding Pupil number and school capacity forecasts Early Years developments Contract renewals where costs are funded from Schools Budget (at least 1 month before invitation to tender)
January	Agree next year's individual school budgets. EY and HNB proposals if available. Consider council's budget	
March	Agree next year's Early Years and High Needs Block Budgets	

2.3 In order to ensure that the Forum also considers school priorities, the chair undertook a consultation with Headteachers who were asked about their views on priorities for Schools Forum after looking at the constitution.

2. Type of school

● Academy	5
● Mainstream	6
● Entering into partnership	1
● Other	3



Looking at the constitution what are your most pressing issues rearrange these top being most pressing



The 'other' subjects raised were-

Capacity for schools to respond to all new initiatives raised by other agencies/ services.

The number of surplus places

The sustainability of BF support and SLAs (non statutory)

3 Equalities Impact Assessment

3.1 Not required.

4 Strategic Risk Management Issues

4.1 None identified.

5 Climate Change and Ecological Impacts

5.1 No impact.

Background Papers

Constitution of the Schools Forum: <https://democratic.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/documents/s201324/Schools%20Forum%20Constitution%20Membership%20September%202024%20-%20Proposed%20Changes%20v2.pdf>

Contact for further information

Paul Clark, Finance Business Partner
paul.clark@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

: 01344 354054