

Derby City Council Schools Forum Induction

17th October 2023

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Derby City Council

Agenda



Welcome and introductions



The Role of schools forum.



The DSG

Schools Forum

- Schools Forum act as a consultative group on resource allocation issues and contractual arrangements in which schools have an interest
- Schools Forum also have some decision making powers
- There is a heavy emphasis on the annual DSG budget setting process and the formula for allocating budgets to schools

Members

- 11 members in total with a balance of representation between the maintained and academy sectors
- 1 voluntary sector
- 1 Nursery rep
- 1 Primary Academy Reps
- 1 Primary Maintained
- 1 School Business Manager
- Governor Reps
- 1 Free School Rep
- 1 Secondary Maintained
- 1 Secondary Academy
- 1 Special School
- 1 PRU
- 1 Union Rep
- 16-19 rep



Communication with groups

- Representatives should ensure that they communicate with the groups they represent.
- Representatives need to be confident in their methods of consultation before debating major issues at meetings of the Schools Forum and communication afterwards.
- For Governor Representatives feedback on Schools Forum?
- For reasons of transparency all meetings of the Schools Forum must be held in public
- There is a link to the Schools Forum pages on the Derby City Website
<http://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/schools-forum>

Points of Reference

- City Council website for all meeting agenda and reports
 - <https://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/schools-forum/>
- DFE website for operational and good practice guides
 - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6058931a8fa8f545d995f141/Schools_forum_operational_and_good_practice_guide_amended_March_2021.pdf



Decision Making

Under the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations the Schools Forum can make decisions as follows:

- The budget and criteria for the allocation of the Growth Fund;
- The de-delegation of funding for maintained schools (maintained school phase representatives only);
- Central Schools , Early Years Block and Central Block Expenditure
- Amendments to the Scheme for Funding Schools
- Transfers between blocks within the DSG (within certain parameters)

Such decisions are based on the outcome of consultation and discussions which will be set out in reports.

Decision reports will request Schools Forum to approve recommendations.

Consultative Role

All reports contain a recommendation. In their consultative role, Schools Forum members will be asked to:

- Comment – when the LA is consulting on proposals e.g. an initial consultation influencing the direction of development
- Agree – where there are specific proposals before the LA decision; e.g. formula changes
- Note – purely for interest that may have a bearing on future issues or developments e.g. Government legislation



Schools Forum Operation



- Meetings are usually held 4 times a year (Jan/Feb, June/July, Oct & Dec)
- Papers are published on the Website.
- Quorum = 40% (excludes vacancies)
- Only schools' members, academies members + PVI Rep allowed to vote on the funding formulae
- Should a formal vote be required, this is on the basis of one member one vote
- Named substitutes are allowed to attend and vote in the absence of a substantive member



- The Chair and Vice Chair are elected for a two-year term of office
- The agenda is agreed in advance with the Chair
- The Chair has no executive decision-making powers



- Business at each meeting is shaped by:
 - The budget cycle including consultation on arrangements for Schools and Early Years funding blocks, as well as consideration of arrangements for the High Needs block (SEN and Alternative Provision) and agreement of the Central Block
 - Government announcements and consultations on changes to funding arrangements for schools and early years;
 - Issues emerging from Governor and Headteacher groups



Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2023-2024 Funding Blocks

£307.86m

SCHOOLS BLOCK	EARLY YEARS BLOCK	HIGH NEEDS BLOCK	CENTRAL BLOCK
£228.23m	£20.35m	£56.63m	£2.66m

Schools Block

- Main driver for funding is pupils – Age Weighted Pupil Units (AWPU)
- Additional factors include, mobility, deprivation, LAC, EAL, Lump Sums, PFI, Rates, Prior Attainment
- October census count

Early Years Block

- Funding for all 3/4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds
- calculated on 15 hrs or 30hrs (criteria) per week
- Paid on actual participation, three counts a year (budget adjusted in year)
- 23-24 update- changes to offer, starting from 9 months, introducing a formula allocation from 2 years (currently only 3/4 yrs olds have a formula)



High Needs Block

- Funding is based on actual commissioned pupil placement combined with a base level of funding to offer stability.
- Place led.
- Pupil led element of funding is to be met by the commissioning organisation and will be based on the individual needs of each pupil

Central services

- Historic commitments
- Admissions
- School Forum
- Prudential Borrowing
- Copyright Subscriptions
- Previously Education Support Grant



De delegation

- Schools Forum makes an annual decision on de-delegation for maintained schools. A more sustainable model is required though.
- De-delegation safeguards specific services for maintained schools where expenditure is difficult to predict, or is targeted to specific need, or there are benefits of economy of scale/risk management in pooling funding.
- Services are discretionary and owing to their nature may not be sustainable through a service level agreement buy back
- Academies have the option to buy back as per the regulations on specific areas.





Thank you



Derby City Council