






Derby City Council

**School Forum**  
**22 October 2024**  
**4.30pm – 6pm**  
**Via Teams**

<b>Present</b>	David Blackwell	Primary Academy		
	Janet Bowlzer	DCC, Finance		
	Charlotte Brett	PVI Rep		
	Sharon Buckby	DCC		
	Ian Dewes	Primary Academy		
	Ann Donaghy (part)	Primary Academy		
	Jonathan Gallimore	Free School rep		
	Ashley Guest	Maintained Primary		
	Janice Hadfield	DCC, Finance		
	Karen Hayes	Special Academy		
	Mike Pride (Chair)	Maintained Special		
	Phil Smith	Secondary Academy		
	Sara Warren	Business Manager		
	Jill Wilkinson	Primary Academy		
<b>Apologies</b>	Neil Wilkinson			
	Pete Cade			
	Cllr Paul Hezelgrave			
			Who	
<b>1</b>	<b>Introductions</b>			
	A round of introductions were made as there were a lot of new members to the Forum			
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>			
	These were noted as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting. It was noted most members were new and not at the last meeting. No comments were made when the minutes were distributed.			
<b>3</b>	<b>Members Vote for the Chair</b>			
	School Forum needs to be constitutional quorate, just missing two members who are required who are the 16-19 rep and Union member, and the membership will be complete, SB to go back to these groups to ask for interest.		<b>SB</b>	
	Sharon thanked Mike for being the Chair for the last two years and explained it was now time to nominate themselves or a colleague for the next two year period.			
	MP expressed he was happy to carry on or equally happy for someone else to become Chair. MP explained there is a commitment to attend a pre-meet for 30 minutes prior to the meeting, which SB would like to bring forward to the week before so if there are any recommendations with regard to the papers, there would be a chance to amend the papers before the meeting.			

	<p>There are 4 90 minute meetings per year. JH also commented the Chair would not be expected to present papers, the majority of papers would come from Finance and SB would provide an update on transformation of the DSG plan periodically.</p> <p>It was agreed by the School Forum members Mike Pride will continue as Chair for the next two years, and Mike accepted this role.</p>		
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Members Vote for the Vice Chair</b> SB asked all members if anyone would be interested in fulfilling this role. Phil Smith has agreed to consider this, however he does have other commitments. SB to speak to PS outside the meeting.</p>	<b>SB</b>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>School Forum Training</b> JH presented a powerpoint to give new members an overview of the role of the School Forum and an explanation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).</p> <p>DB asked if the Forum where involved in making decisions on the capital funding. JH was not aware of this.</p> <p>Papers around capital plans would come to the Forum. LA are allocated the funds to develop a plan and deliver against plan which needs to have cabinet approval. Decision making body is cabinet.</p> <p>ID asked around historic commitments? All sorts funded from DSG, historical gov recognised that could not pinpoint, no list some of old pension shortfalls, brought in national funding formula. Contributions to central services supported education, reduced over time. Cannot create historic combination. Becomes a pressure on its general fund every year.</p> <p>The presentation is attached.</p>		 Schools Forum Presentation Octobe
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Quarter 2 Monitoring Update</b> JH presented the paper.</p> <p>Recommendations to note the forecast outturn position for 24-25, the current forecast is predicting an in-year deficit of £6.767m, which is £1.855m lower than the in-year deficit set at budget time.</p> <p>To note the implications for 24-25 DSG reserve in Section 4.0 which is predicting a cumulative DSG deficit position of £19.455m</p> <p>To note the requirement of the Deficit Management Recovery Plan in Section 5.0.</p> <p>JH reported Early years breakeven position , however this could change if there is a clawback of funds, figures were reworked based on actual numbers, however it is looking in a much more favourable position.</p>		 2024 October Qtr2 monitoring.pdf

	<p>Section 3.5 The High Needs Block is reporting an in-year deficit of £6.767m which is a reduction of £1.885m from the deficit set. This is broken down into various categories as noted Post 16, Maintained Schools Element 3, Special Schools, Enhanced Resource Provisions, Personal budgets and Independent School Places.</p> <p>SB commented that litigation was higher but expected. Drive at the moment is to start to move children where appropriate, two tribunals have been won recently, also tribunals have been closed, thinking about the support and packages to be combined for child through intervention. Different approach to tribunals for everyone including schools.</p> <p>CB expressed the need for support in Early Years settings in schools. There are demanding EHCP's even in mainstream settings which is putting a strain on the EHCP system itself.</p> <p>DB congratulated all around tribunals and hopefully this will set a trend and parents expectations, some deciding not to go to tribunals, just need to keep building on this.</p> <p>Section 5 recaps on the Deficit Management Plan.</p>		
7	<p><b>Core School Budget Grant Methodology</b></p> <p>JH went through the report.</p> <p>The ESFA have announced almost £1.1 billion through the CSBG to support schools with overall costs in 24/25 financial year, in particular following confirmation of the 2024 teacher pay award Derbys allocation is £0.632m.</p> <p>School Forum to consider the methodology for allocating the Core School Budget Grant for maintained special schools, special academies, and special free schools.</p> <p>Previous allocations have allocated funding on a per place amount based on the place numbers as triggered by the Department of Education published SEND and AP place numbers. It is recommended that the 24-25 allocation continues to replicate such methodology as to remain consistent with previous years.</p> <p>MP commented that the Jan census on role was always wrong, incorrect data significantly impacts on the school.</p> <p>JH will take this away to see what options are available, and will bring this back to the December meeting.</p>	JH	 2024 October Core School Bud methodol.