

Time	4.00 pm	Public Meeting?	YES	Type of meeting	Partnership Boards
Venue	Committee Room 3 - 3rd Floor - Civic Centre				

Membership

Karen Preston (Chair)	Academies Sector Representative
Susan Lacey (Vice Chair)	Nursery Sector Head Teacher Representative
Darryl Asbury	Academies Sector Representative
Kirsty Banks	Academies Sector Representative
Stephen Blower	Secondary Sector Headteacher Representative
Rachael Brown	Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher Representative
Vivienne Bunce	Special School Sector Governor Representative
Kate Charles	Primary Sector Substitute
Amarjit Cheema	Academies Sector Substitute
Louisa Craig	Academies Sector Representative
Ben Davis	Academies Sector Representative
Lorraine Dawney	Special School Sector Headteacher Representative
Gary Gentle	Diocesan Representative Substitute
Trisha James	Primary Sector Governor Representative
Samantha Kemp-Marshall	Early Years (PVI Sector) Representative
Carroll McNally	Non-School Member Diocesan Schools Representative
Bhaksho Raj	Academies Sector Representative
Zoe Rollinson	Primary Sector Headteacher Representative
Emma Smith	Nursery Sector Headteacher Substitute
Stephen Smith	Primary Sector Governor Representative
Graham Tate	Academies Sector Representative
Lisa Thompson	Diocesan Schools Representative
Lucia Jayne Turner	Nursery Sector Governor Representative
Samantha Walker	Primary Sector Headteacher Representative
Lindsay Watson	Pupil Referral Unit Sector Substitute
Phil Williams	Academies Sector Representative

Observer Status

Councillor Chris Burden	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Emma Bennett	Executive Director of Families
Bill Hague	Head of Business and Support
Brenda Wile	Deputy Director of Education

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact:

Contact Shelley Humphries

Tel/Email 01902 554070 shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

Website <http://wolverhampton.cmis.uk.com/decisionmaking>

Email democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Tel 01902 555043

Please take note of the protocol for filming, recording, and use of social media in meetings, copies of which are displayed in the meeting room.

Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Welcome and Introductions |
| 2 | Apologies |
| 3 | Declaration of Interest or Confidentiality |
| 4 | Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 16 February 2023 (Pages 1 - 6)
[To approve the minutes of 16 February 2023 as a correct record.] |
| 5 | Matters Arising
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2023.] |
| 6 | Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance Update (Pages 7 - 10)
[To receive an update on current Schools' Forum membership and attendance.] |
| 7 | Schools' Forum Forward Plan 2023 - 2024 (Pages 11 - 14)
[To note the Schools' Forum Forward Plan for academic year 2023 - 2024.] |

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR DECISION

- | | |
|----|--|
| 8 | Surplus and Deficit Budget Monitoring (Pages 15 - 18)
[To receive an update on surplus and deficit budget monitoring and balances held in maintained schools.] |
| 9 | Dedicated Schools Grant Outturn 2022-2023 (Pages 19 - 24)
[To receive the report on the final out turn against the DSG in 2022 – 2023.] |
| 10 | Agreed Schools' Forum Meeting Formats
[Discussion item to agree the Schools' Forum meeting format going forward.] |
| 11 | Early Years Subgroup Update
[To receive an update on the progress of the Early Years Subgroup.] |
| 12 | High Needs Subgroup Update
[To receive an update from the Chair of the High Needs Subgroup.] |
| 13 | Any Other Business |
| 14 | Dates for future meetings |

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

- 5 October 2023
- 7 December 2023
- 25 January 2024
- 29 February 2024

<p>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</p>	<p>Schools' Forum Minutes - 16 February 2023</p>
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Attendance

Members of the Schools' Forum

Karen Preston (Chair)	Academies Sector Representative
Susan Lacey (Vice Chair)	Nursery Sector Headteacher Representative
Darryl Asbury	Academies Sector Representative
Kirsty Banks	Academies Sector Representative
Stephen Blower	Secondary Sector Representative
Ben Davis	Academies Sector Representative
Samantha Kemp-Marshall	Non-School Member PVI Early Years Representative
Carroll McNally	Non-School Member Diocesan Schools Representative
Lisa Thompson	Non-School Member Diocesan Schools Representative
Lindsay Watson	Pupil Referral Unit Sector Substitute
Sarah Whittington	Special School Sector Head Teacher Representative
Phil Williams	Academies Sector Representative

Observer Status

Bill Hague	Head of School Business and Support
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In Attendance

James Barlow	Finance Business Partner
Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. Title

1 **Welcome and Introductions**

2 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Schools' Forum members Zoe Rollinson, Louisa Craig, Bhaksho Raj, Graham Tate and Stephen Smith.

Apologies were also received from Emma Bennett and Helen Bakewell.

3 **Declaration of Interest or Confidentiality**

There were no declarations of interest or confidentiality.

4 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 19 January 2023**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of 19 January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

5 **Matters Arising**

In terms of the Early Years Sub-Group, it was noted that there had not been any update since last month's meeting however this was in progress and communications would go out to the membership shortly.

Resolved:

That the Early Years Sub-Group Update be noted.

6 **Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance Update**

Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support Services provided a verbal update on Schools' Forum membership and attendance.

It was noted that Lisa Anne Westwood would be stepping down from Schools' Forum and the Chair took the opportunity to express thanks for Lisa's contributions to Forum.

It was reported that processes for filling vacancies for each of the different sectors were currently being reviewed. Suggestions included vacancy announcements in headteacher and governor bulletins, revising mailing lists and reviewing the current arrangements with ConnectEd to reach a wider audience across the City.

It was confirmed that non-attendance to Schools' Forum meetings without apologies or a substitute for three consecutive meetings would result in a review of membership.

Resolved:

1. That methods for filling vacancies for Schools' Forum membership be reviewed.
2. That the Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance Update be received.

7 **Schools' Forum Forward Plan 2022 - 2023**

Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support Services presented the Schools' Forum Forward Plan 2022 – 2023 and highlighted future agenda items.

It was agreed that an item around the Local Authority approach to forecasting special educational needs and disability (SEND) provision would be added to the forward plan for the next meeting.

Schools' Forum members were invited to suggest any other items they wished to receive at future meetings by contacting either Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support Services or Shelley Humphries, Democratic Services Officer.

Resolved:

1. That the Schools' Forum Forward Plan 2022 – 2023 be noted.
2. That an item around the Local Authority approach to forecasting special educational needs and disability provision would be added to the forward plan for the next meeting.

8 **Dedicated Schools Grant - High Needs Block 2023-2024**

James Barlow, Finance Business Partner presented the Dedicated Schools Grant - High Needs Block 2023-2024 report and highlighted key changes from last year's report. Particular attention was drawn to the update on the paused Matrix Review at paragraph 4.2 and changes outlined in paragraph 5.1.

The report provided an update on the High Needs block (HNB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2023-2024 and sought approval to allocate the funding in accordance with the guidance issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Resolved:

1. That members of Schools' Forum note the anticipated settlement for 2023-2024.
2. That the allocation of High Needs expenditure for 2023-2024 (Appendix 1) be approved.
3. That the matrix bands for 2023-2024 (Appendix 2) be noted.
4. That members of Schools' Forum approve a total per place contribution for maintained Pupil Referral Units and Special Schools to support the delivery of Local Authority retained education functions previously funded by Education Services Grant and the school improvement contribution.

9 **Dedicated Schools Grant - Schools Block Funding 2023- 2024**

James Barlow, Finance Business Partner presented the Dedicated Schools Grant - Schools Block Funding 2023- 2024 report and highlighted salient points.

The report provided an update on the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2023-2024, following Forum agreement to apply the national funding formula, in accordance with the guidance issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Resolved:

That the individual schools' budget settlement for 2023-2024 be noted.

10 **Dedicated Schools Grant - Central School Services Block 2023-2024**

James Barlow, Finance Business Partner presented the Dedicated Schools Grant - Central School Services Block 2023-2024 and highlighted salient points.

The report provided an update on the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and seeks approval for a list of items that the Local Authority manages centrally on the behalf of schools and academies.

Resolved:

That the individual lines of the proposed budget allocation of the Central Schools Services Block for 2023-2024, as shown in the table in 2.0 be agreed.

11

Dedicated Schools Grant - Early Years Block 2023-2024

James Barlow, Finance Business Partner presented the Dedicated Schools Grant - Early Years Block 2023-2024 report and highlighted salient points. The report provided details of the proposed use of the Early Years funding block of the Dedicated Schools Grant in 2023-2024.

In response to a query around the 0.15p per hour for the Separate Teachers Pay and Pension Element for School Nurseries in paragraph 2.4, it was clarified that this information was drawn from the Early Years funding rates and step-by-step calculations 2023 to 2024 (link provided within report). It was reported that proposals for distribution methods were being explored internally although not yet finalised; an update would be provided as part of Matters Arising at the summer Schools' Forum meeting.

A query was raised in respect of the pass-through rate for two-year-old funding as there were concerns around top slicing from the 3–4-year-old funding to subsidise staffing costs. Concerns were acknowledged and although local authorities could not influence this it was noted that, should there be a consultation, this would be raised with government at the first opportunity.

Due to patterns highlighted in previous years in which the centrally retained service allocations had increased despite a balance in the out-turn, it was queried whether there may be the possibility of some carry-forward. It was also noted that the £118,000 did not agree with the forecast cost to deliver the Early Years' service for 2023 – 2024. It was clarified that the funding had been spent in full in previous years and that the £449,000 referred to the total costs to the Authority and the £118,000 was topped up by the local authority.

A query was raised around whether the inclusion funding allocations would be sufficient as there had been an overspend in this area last financial year and similar concerns were expressed for the next. It was acknowledged that larger numbers of children with SEND were being identified than previously, therefore the work being undertaken around forecasting numbers of pupils with SEND would be invaluable in anticipating and meeting future demand. It was also requested that Finance officers meet with relevant Forum members outside of Forum prior to producing the out-turn report to discuss.

Concerns were expressed that the 1% uplift protection applied to the hourly rates may be insufficient and it was debated whether this could be challenged. It was noted that the National Funding Formula allowed local authorities little control over funding provided by government and how it was distributed, however making representation in response to any future DfE consultations or lobbying MPs were potential options. It was agreed to raise the concern internally with Emma Bennett,

Executive Director of Families to establish a course of action and provide an update on the outcome to the Forum.

Resolved:

1. That the proposed use of the Early Years Block grant for 2023-2024 be agreed.
2. That an update on distribution of the Separate Teachers Pay and Pension Element for School Nurseries be provided at the next meeting.
3. That representations be made to government around two-year-old funding at the first opportunity.
4. That Finance officers meet with relevant Schools' Forum members separately prior to producing the out-turn report to discuss.
5. That concerns around Early Years 1% uplift be raised with Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families to establish a potential course of action with an update provided on the outcome.

12 **Early Years Sub-group Update**

It was noted that this had been covered during Matters Arising.

13 **High Needs Sub-Group Update**

It was noted that this had been covered during Matters Arising.

14 **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

15 **Date of the next meeting**

Proposed dates were provided for 2023 – 2024:

- 29 June 2023
- 5 October 2023
- 7 December 2023
- 25 January 2024
- 29 February 2024

It was agreed to continue with the hybrid format, however members were encouraged to attend in person.

The Chair closed the meeting at 17:02 pm

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Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance 2022 - 2023

Members	Nominated	Term Ends	2021 - 2022					2022-2023				
			Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid
			30-Sep-21	09-Dec-21	20-Jan-22	17-Feb-22	07-Jul-22	29-Sep-22	01-Dec-22	19-Jan-23	16-Feb-23	29-Jun-23
Primary Headteacher / Representatives												
Samantha Walker (Wodensfield Primary School)	01.02.19	Sep-25	Present	Absent - No Sub	Present	Present	Present (v)	Present	Present	Present (v)	Present (v)	
Zoe Rollinson (Lanesfield Primary School)	24.03.18	Sep-24	Present	Absent - No Sub	Present	Apols - Other Reps Present	Present (v)	Present (v)	Apols - Other Reps Present	Apols - Other Reps Present	Apols - Other Reps Present	
Primary Headteacher Substitute												
Kate Charles (Stow Lawn Primary School)	16.09.19	Sep-23	Not Required - Rep Attended	Absent - No Rep	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	
Primary Governor Representative												
Stephen Smith (Warstones Primary School)	09.09.20	Sep-23	Apols - No Sub	Apols - No Sub	Apols - No Sub	Apols - Other Reps Present	Present	Apols - No Sub	Apols - No Sub	Present	Apols - Other Reps Present	
Trisha James (Dovecotes Primary School)	01.09.20	Sep-23	Absent - No Rep	Absent - No Rep	Absent - No Rep	Present	Present (v)	Absent - No Rep	Apols - No Sub	Absent - Other Reps Present	Present (v)	
Primary Governor Substitute												
Vacancy			Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	
Secondary Sector Headteacher / Representative												
Stephen Blower (Colton Hills Community School) (Representative since 31 Jan 2023)	01.12.22	Sep-25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Present (v)	
Secondary Sector Headteacher Substitute												
Vacancy			Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Apols - No Rep	Absent - No Rep	Sub Vacancy
Nursery Headteacher / Representative												
Susan Lacey (Ashmore Park Nursery School) (Vice Chair)	03.09.20	Sep-23	Apols - Sent Sub	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Nursery Headteacher Substitute												
Emma Smith (Bilston and Eastfield Nurseries)	19.01.22	Sep-25	Claire Foster attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	
Nursery Governors												
Lucia Jayne Turner (Windsor Nursery)	01.09.20	Sep-23	Present	Apols - Sent Sub	Apols - No Sub	Present	Present (v)	Present (v)	Present (v)	Apols - No Sub	Absent - No Sub	
Nursery Governors - Substitute												
Vacancy			Not Required - Rep Attended	Present	Absent - No Rep	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Absent - No Rep	Absent - No Rep

Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance 2022 - 2023

Members	Nominated	Term Ends	2021 - 2022					2022-2023				
			Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	
			30-Sep-21	09-Dec-21	20-Jan-22	17-Feb-22	07-Jul-22	29-Sep-22	01-Dec-22	19-Jan-23	16-Feb-23	29-Jun-23
Special School Headteacher / Representatives												
Lorraine Dawney (Green Park School)	19.6.2023	Sep-26	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present (v)	Present
Special School Headteacher Substitute												
			Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended
Special School Governors Representative												
Vivienne Bunce(Chair of Governors, Penn Fields)	Sep-22	Sep-25	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Apols - No Sub	Present (v)	Present (v)	Absent - No Sub
Special School Governors Substitute												
Vacancy			Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy
Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher / Representatives												
Rachael Brown (Executive Headteacher – Lawnswood Campus)	06.02.20	Sep-23	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Apols - No Sub	Present (v)	Present (v)	Absent - Sent Sub	Absent - No Sub
Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher Substitute												
Lindsay Watson (Lawnswood Campus)	20.01.22	Sep-25	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Absent - No Rep	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Present	Present
Academies Representatives												
Darryl Asbury (Executive Headteacher - Perry Hall MAT)	18.11.19	Sep-25	Present	Present	Apols - Other Reprs Present	Present	Present (v)	Present	Present	Absent - Other Reprs Present	Apols - Other Reprs Present	Present (v)
Louisa Craig (St Francis and St Clare Catholic MAC)	11.10.18	Sep-24	Apols - Other Reprs Present	Present	Present	Present	Present (v)	Present (v)	Present (v)	Absent - Other Reprs Present	Present (v)	Apols - Other Reprs Present
Ben Davis (CEO, St. Martin's MAT)	11.10.18	Sep-24	Present	Apols - Other Reprs Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Apols - Other Reprs Present	Apols - Other Reprs Present	Present (v)	Present
New Vacancy (Lisa Westwood stepped down)			Present	Present	Present	Present	Apols - Other Reprs Present	Present (v)	Present (v)	Apols - Other Reprs Present	Apols - Other Reprs Present	Rep Vacancy
Vacancy			Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy
Karen Preston (Chair) (Governing Board Member, Woodfield Primary)	14.11.18	Sep-24	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Bhaksho Raj (St Francis & St Clare Catholic MAC)	26.09.19	Sep-25	Absent - Other Reprs Present	Present	Present	Present	Apols - Other Reprs Present	Present (v)	Present(v)	Present (v)	Absent - Other Reprs Present	Apols - Other Reprs Present
Graham Tate (Highfields)	01.10.20	Sep-26	Apols - Other Reprs Present	Absent - Other Reprs Present	Present	Present	Present	Present (v)	Present (v)	Present (v)	Present (v)	Apols - Other Reprs Present
Phil Williams (CLPT)	11.10.18	Sep-24	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present (v)	Present (v)	Present	Present (v)	Present
Kirsty Banks (Ignite Learning Partnership)	14.11.18	Sep-24	Present	Absent - Other Reprs Present	Present	Present	Present	Apols - Other Reprs Present	Absent - Other Reprs Present	Present	Present	Present

Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance 2022 - 2023

Members	Nominated	Term Ends	2021 - 2022					2022-2023				
			Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	
			30-Sep-21	09-Dec-21	20-Jan-22	17-Feb-22	07-Jul-22	29-Sep-22	01-Dec-22	19-Jan-23	16-Feb-23	29-Jun-23
Academies Substitutes												
Vacancy			Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	
Vacancy			Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	
Vacancy			Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	
Vacancy			Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	

Non School Members

Diocesan Schools Representatives (x2)												
Vacancy			Absent - Sent Sub	Absent - No Sub	Present	Present	Present (v)	Present (v)	Absent - No Sub	Present (v)		
Lisa Thompson (St Andrews C of E Primary School)	25.02.21	Sep-24	Apols - Sent Sub	Apols - No Sub	Present	Present	Absent - Other Reps Present	Apols - Other Reps Present	Present	Present		
Diocesan Schools Substitute												
Gary Gentle (Bilston CE)	01.09.20	Sep-26	Present	Apols - No Rep	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Absent - No Rep	Not Required - Rep Attended		
Vacancy			Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	
Early Years (PVI Sector) Representative												
Samantha Kemp-Marshall	27.06.22	Sep-25	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Present	Present	Apols - No Sub	Absent - No Sub		
Early Years PVI Sector Substitute												
Elizabeth Towner	27.06.22	Sep-25	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Absent - No Rep	Absent - No Rep		
15 -19 Education												
Ian Browne	13.09.20	Sep-23	Present	Absent - No Sub	Absent - No Sub	Absent - No Sub	Apols - No Sub	Absent - No Sub	Absent - No Sub	Absent - No Sub		

Observer Status Members

LA Role	Representative
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People	Councillor Christopher Burden
Executive Director of Families	Emma Bennett
Deputy Director for Education	Brenda Wile
Head of School Business and Support Services	Bill Hague

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City of Wolverhampton Council

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date	29 June 2023
Report title	Schools' Forum – Forward Plan 2023 - 2024
Contact Officer	Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support
Telephone number	01902 555100

Summary

This report outlines the Forward Plan for Schools' Forum for 2023 - 2024.

It is good practice to have a forward plan to ensure that Forum members are aware of the schedule of reports that need to be considered and decisions made.

Decision

Members of the Schools' Forum are asked to note and comment on the Forward Plan.

**Wolverhampton Schools' Forum
Forward Plan 2023 - 2024**

Date of Meeting	Item Type	Responsible Officer
5 October 2023		
Election of Chair and Vice Chair	Decision Item	All
Schools' Forum Constitution 2023 - 2024	Decision Item	Bill Hague
Budget Monitoring and School Balances Report	TBC	James Barlow
Education Role in the Exploitation Hub	TBC	Rachel King
High Needs Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sarah Whittington
Early Years Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sue Lacey
SEND forecasting and Place Planning	Information Item	Bill Hague
7 December 2023		
Growth Fund Update	Information Item	David Kirby
2024/2025 Consultation on Schools' Funding Formula	Decision Item	James Barlow
2024/2025 High Needs Place Commissioning	Decision Item	TBC
High Needs Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sarah Whittington
Early Years Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sue Lacey
25 January 2024		
Dedicated Schools Grant and School Funding 2024/25	Decision Item	James Barlow
High Needs Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sarah Whittington
Early Years Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sue Lacey
29 February 2024		
High Needs Block Funding 2024	Approval Item	James Barlow
Early Years Block Funding 2024	Approval Item	James Barlow
Central Services Block Funding 2024	Approval Item	James Barlow
Schools Block Funding 2024	Approval Item	James Barlow
High Needs Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sarah Whittington
Early Years Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sue Lacey

27 June 2024 TBC		
School Balances Update	Information Item	James Barlow
Dedicated Schools Grant Out-turn	Information Item	James Barlow
High Needs Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sarah Whittington
Early Years Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sue Lacey

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City of Wolverhampton Council

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date	29 June 2023
Report title	Surplus and Deficit Budget Monitoring
Contact Officer	Peter Green, Finance Manager
Contact Email Address	peter.green@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Summary

This is a report to update Members of Schools' Forum on the Local Authority processes of monitoring schools having or forecasting a deficit balance and schools carrying excess surplus balances; and to note the balances held within Wolverhampton maintained schools as at 31 March 2023.

Decision

Members of the Schools' Forum are asked to:

1. Note the level of balances in maintained schools as at 31 March 2023.
2. Note the approach to challenging schools around the level of their balances and their plans for those resources.
3. Note the monitoring and reporting methodology.

Schedule of background papers:

- [Scheme for Financing of Schools January 2019.](#)

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report will update Schools' Forum members of the work currently being undertaken in relation to maintained schools having or predicted to have deficit balances, and with those that are carrying excess surplus balances.

2.0 Background/Process

- 2.1 This report outlines the processes followed by the Local Authority in the monitoring of potential deficit balances, including the desktop monitoring and Licensed Deficit application.
- 2.2 The Scheme for Financing Schools provides an option for the clawback of excess surplus balances subject to an arbitration panel. Any balances clawed back are redistributed to schools through a School Improvement bid process.

3.0 Monitoring of Deficit Balances

- 3.1 Schools are currently required to submit budget plans twice per year – original budget plans in May, with updated, revised Autumn term plans in October. Upon receipt of these plans, officers identify schools that are forecasting a deficit and add them to a monitoring watchlist. The following table is a summary of the schools ending 2022-2023 with a deficit balance and those reporting a future deficit in the May budget plans:

School Phase (Number of LA schools)	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Budget Plan	2024-2025 Budget Plan	2025-2026 Budget Plan
Nursery (7)	1	3	5	5
Primary (34)	0	1	9	27
Secondary (3)	1	0	1	1
Special (4)	0	1	1	2
PRU (3)	1	1	3	3
Total	3	6	19	38

- 3.2 The plans submitted in May, are provisional in relation to future funding levels, since there are uncertainties that cannot be built into a budget plan. It is expected that the October plans will be more robust, though it is accepted that their remains continued uncertainties around future levels of funding.
- 3.3 Schools are expected to apply for a licensed deficit at the point that they anticipate their end of current year budget to be in a deficit position greater than £10,000. The following table illustrates the value of the deficit position for each phase of school.

Value of forecast deficit by end of 2023-24 Financial Year					
School Phase	<£10,000	£10,000 - £100,000	£100,000 - £200,000	£200,000 - £500,000	>£500,000
Nursery	1	0	2	0	0
Primary	0	1	0	0	0
Secondary	0	0	0	0	0
Special	0	0	1	0	0
PRU	0	0	0	1	0
Total	1	1	3	1	0

3.4 One of the schools included in the figures in 3.3 are currently operating within a licensed deficit scheme.

4.0 Monitoring of Excess Surplus Balances

4.1 A school's right to carry forward surplus balances is covered in Section 4 of the Scheme for Financing Schools. Section 4.2 states:

'The Authority, under arrangements approved by the Schools' Forum, will recover excessive surplus balances from individual schools that are unsupported by specific proposals for their use. Any such amounts recovered will be redistributed across the appropriate local area under arrangements approved by Schools' Forum.'

4.2 Current arrangements are that schools with an existing surplus and those with new surplus balances submit plans in September. These plans are reviewed by Local Authority officers and headteachers are invited to further explain their plans at meetings if required, held through the Autumn term. Where it is deemed necessary, an arbitration panel is held where a final decision is made about any clawback of funding at the end of the financial year.

4.3 The following table illustrates the number of schools that held excess surplus balances at the end of 2022-2023 financial year. This allows for one primary school and one special school which converted to academy on 1 April 2023.

Number of Schools and Total Value of Excess Surplus Balances 2022-2023					
School Phase	Total Opening Balance 2022-2023	Total Closing Balance 2022-2023	Total number of Schools	Schools with Excess Surplus	Total Excess Surplus Balance
	£000	£000			£000
Nursery	1,202	1,280	7	6	938
Primary	9,054	8,917	34	23	4,326
Secondary	2,523	3,533	3	2	2,875
Special	2,239	1,355	3	1	527
PRU	601	151	3	1	29
Total	15,619	15,236	50	33	8,695

4.4 The processes of monitoring of excess surplus balances, capital balances and deficit recoveries will be reviewed in line with previous plans and will be reported back to Schools' Forum in a timely manner.

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City of Wolverhampton Council

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date	29 June 2023
Report title	Dedicated Schools Grant Outturn 2022-2023
Contact Officer	James Barlow, Finance Business Partner
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Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Schools' Forum on the final expenditure against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2022-2023.

Decision

Members of the Schools' Forum are asked to:

1. Note the latest 2022-2023 DSG allocation published by the Department for Education.
2. Receive the report on the final outturn against the DSG in 2022-2023.

1.0 Background

1.1 In December 2021, the Government announced the Local Authority's initial DSG allocation for 2022-2023. The City of Wolverhampton's initial allocation was £308.17 million detailed over the main funding blocks. Over the course of 2022-2023, the DSG has been updated to reflect changes in the levels of participation across the early years sector and changes as a result of the academisation process. The most recent 2022-2023 DSG allocation updated as at March 2023 was £309.70 million. The final update of the 2022-2023 DSG allocation will be published in July 2023.

Block	Latest DSG Allocation 2021-2022 £m	ESFA Recoupment £m	Net DSG received by Authority £m
Schools Block	(235.99)	162.40	(73.59)
Central Schools Services Block	(2.02)	0.00	(2.02)
High Needs Block	(52.61)	7.08	(45.53)
Early Years Block	(19.08)	0.00	(19.08)
Total	(309.70)	(169.48)	(140.22)

2.0 2022-2023 Outturn by Funding Block

Schools Block

Schools Block grant usage 2022-2023	2022-2023 £m
Brought forward from 2022-2023 brought forward	(1.36)
Total School Block DSG in year	(235.99)
Recoupment for Academies	162.49
Transfer to Schools	72.26
Growth Fund expenditure in year	2.40
Total grant carried forward	(0.20)

2.1 The carried forward balance of £200,000 relates to accruals and future commitments on the growth fund as per the agreed Schools Block Budget for 2023-2024.

Central Schools Services Block

- 2.2 The Central Schools Services Block had a brought forward underspend of £0.11 million in 2021-2022. The underspend remained at £0.11 million at the end of 2022-2023 and will be used to fund the statutory Children Missing Education (CME) post in 2023-2024.

DSG Central Services Block	2022-2023 Budget £m	2022-23 Expenditure £m	Variance £
Tri-partite Funding	0.44	0.44	0.00
Termination of employment costs	0.05	0.05	0.00
School Admissions	0.41	0.41	0.00
Servicing of Schools' Forum	0.03	0.03	0.00
Licences/subscriptions	0.23	0.23	(0.00)
Statutory and Regulatory Services	0.16	0.16	0.00
Education Welfare	0.27	0.27	0.00
Asset Management	0.18	0.18	0.00
Contribution to One System Manager	0.03	0.03	0.00
MASH Support	0.06	0.04	(0.02)
Centrally Employed Teachers	0.16	0.16	(0.00)
Children missing in Ed cont. (agreed in YR from BF balance)	0.00	0.02	0.02
Total	2.02	2.02	0.00

	Amount 22-23 £m
Grant brought forward	(0.11)
Grant received in year	(2.02)
Grant used in year as per table above	2.02
Grant carried forward	(0.11)

Early Years Block

- 2.3 The tables below show the spend against the Early Years Block budget. The Early Years budget allocation is adjusted in July 2022 (after initial budget set) and the final Early Years Block allocation for 2022-2023 will not be finalised until July 2023. At that point, any payment required to allocate all the remaining nursery supplement can be actioned as in 2021-2022.

Cost Centre Description	2022-2023 Original Feb 22 Budget	2022-2023 Updated Budget	2022-2023 Expenditure £m	Variance £m
Entitlement Funding Disadvantaged 2-Year-Olds	2.58	2.90	3.03	0.13
Universal Entitlement for 3- and 4-Year-Olds	10.12	10.64	10.21	(0.43)
Additional Entitlement for 3- and 4-Year-Olds	2.53	2.73	2.63	(0.10)
Pupil Premium	0.34	0.37	0.34	(0.03)
Disability Access Fund (DAF)	0.11	0.11	0.04	(0.07)
SEN Inclusion Fund	0.25	0.25	0.42	0.16
Weighted Deprivation 3- and 4-Year-Olds	0.98	1.04	0.98	(0.06)
Maintained Nursery School Supplement	0.92	0.93	0.89	(0.04)
Early Years Central Support Team	0.11	0.11	0.11	(0.00)
Total	17.95	19.08	18.65	(0.43)

Grant Detail	£m
Balance of grant B/F 2022-2023	(1.40)
Additional grant received in 2022-2023 but relating to 2021-2022	(0.27)
Grant allocation 2022-2023	(19.08)
Use of grant in year as per table above	18.65
Sustainability payments and Prior years MNS	0.21
Balance of grant C/F 2023-2024	(1.89)

High Needs Block

2.4 The outturn against the High Needs Block grant for 2022-2023 was an overspend of £80,000, which is carried forward to be funded from the grant allocation for 2023-2024. This is an improvement on the 2021-2022 deficit of £380,000.

2.5 The table below shows the outturn at individual budget level, the main variances being as follows:

- There was an overspend against place funding due mainly to in-year increases in commissioned places (after adjusting for academisation).
- The top-ups budget was 4% underspent, however the overall top-up spend was 17% higher than in 2021-2022.
- An overspend of 41% against the additionality budget due to increased demand in year.
- Out of City/In City/personal provision budgets were 5% overspent, the overall spend being 13% higher than in 2021-2022. This is due to increased demand and increased costs.
- The Additional Nursery and Reception SEND Provision budget was £112,000 overspent due to in-year increases in numbers.

Budget Lines	Budget 2022 - 2023	Outturn	Variance	% Overspend 2022-2023
Place funding	8.25	8.67	0.42	5%
Top Up Funding	19.81	18.95	(0.86)	-4%
Hospital Funding	0.49	0.49	0.00	0%
Home Funding	0.37	0.37	0.00	0%
Outreach	0.95	0.85	(0.10)	-10%
Additionality	0.70	0.99	0.29	41%
Out of City Provision	5.19	4.75	(0.45)	5%
Special Education Provision "Personal Funding"	0.30	0.60	0.30	
Special Education Provision "In City"	0.70	1.12	0.42	
Alternative Provision – Placements	0.45	0.27	(0.18)	-41%
High Incidence SEN Funding	0.03	-	(0.03)	-100%
SEN Assessment and Development	1.38	1.40	0.02	1%
SEN Sensory	0.64	0.63	(0.01)	-1%
SEN Early Years	1.03	1.03	0.00	0%
Specialist Learning Support	0.12	0.08	(0.04)	-
PFI – Penn fields		0.29	0.02	8%

Budget Lines	Budget 2022 - 2023	Outturn	Variance	% Overspend 2022-2023
Additional Nursery and Reception SEND Provision	0.08	0.20	0.12	145%
Post 16 SEN Provision	0.80	0.79	(0.01)	-1%
Special Education Provision "Post 16 Out of City"	1.09	1.05	(0.04)	-
SEND Management and Commissioning	0.44	0.39	(0.04)	-10%
Contribution to SEN children in care Tripartite Funding	1.21	1.46	0.25	21%
Teachers Pay and Pension Funding	0.85	0.85	0.00	0%
B/F Deficit from 2021-2022	0.38	0.38	0.00	-
Total	45.53	45.61	0.08	