



NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

Schools Forum

Date: Tuesday, 8 October 2024

Time: 1.45 pm

Place: Remotely via Zoom / livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/NottCityCouncil>

Members are requested to attend the above meeting to transact the following business

Clerk to the Forum: Mark Leavesley

Direct Dial: 0115 876 4302

<u>Agenda</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1 Appointment of Chair	
2 Appointment of Vice-Chair	
3 Apologies for absence	
4 Declarations of interest	
5 Minutes Last meeting held on 16 July (for confirmation)	3 - 6
6 Membership To note: (a) the removal as Forum representatives of Laura Patel (Nottingham Nursery) and Emma Howard (Secondary Academy) as they are no longer at the respective establishments; (b) that there are currently three vacancies on the Forum for a representative of each of Nottingham Nursery, a maintained primary and a secondary academy.	
7 Constitution To review the Forum's Constitution	7 - 26
8 Schools Forum Working Group Report of Corporate Director for Children and Education Services	27 - 32
9 Dedicated Schools Grant 2025/26 Verbal update by Strategic Finance Business Partner (briefing note attached)	33 - 34

10 Work plan

35 - 36

To note / discuss as necessary

11 Dates of 2024/25 meetings

For the academic year 2024/25:

(a) to note the previously agreed meeting dates of 1.45pm on Tuesdays
29 April and 24 June 2025;

(b) to consider changing the December 2024 date from 3rd to 10th and
the January 2025 date from 21st to 14th.

If you need any advice on declaring an interest in any item on the agenda, please contact the Governance Officer/Clerk to the Forum shown above, if possible before the day of the meeting.

Nottingham City Council

Schools Forum

Minutes of the meeting held remotely and livestreamed on YouTube on 16 July 2024 from 1.50 pm - 2.45 pm

Membership

Kerrie Fox	-	HHELC (PRUs)
David Tungate	-	Secondary Academies
Kerrie Henton	-	AP Academies and Free Schools
Debbie Simon	-	Early Years PVI
Judith Kemplay)	
✓ Terry Smith)	Maintained Primary Head Teachers
✓ Alison Tones)	
✓ Patricia Lewis	-	Maintained Special Schools
Laura Patel	-	The Nottingham Nursery
✓ Meeta Dave)	
Tim Jeffs)	Primary Academies
Rob Perkins)	
✓ Jill Wilkinson)	
✓ Andy Smith)	
Andy Gilbert)	Secondary Academies
Emma Howard)	
✓ Sandra Stapleton)	
Phil Willott	-	Special Academies
✓ Sheena Wheatley	-	Trade Unions
Adam Beazeley	-	14-19 Education

✓ *indicates present at the meeting*

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Neil Brettell	-	Special Educational Needs Team Manager
Jennifer Hardy	-	Interim Head of Access to Learning
Mark Leavesley	-	Governance Officer / Clerk to the Forum
Donna Munday	-	High Needs Senior Commercial Business Partner
Dr Maddi Popoola	-	Mental Health Support Team Service Manager
Susan Woodland	-	Interim DSG Senior Commercial Business Partner

In the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair, Alison Tones (Maintained Primary Headteacher representative) agreed to Chair the meeting.

32 Apologies for absence

Kerrie Fox
Andy Gilbert
Kerrie Henton
Judith Kemplay
Debbie Simon
David Tungate
Phil Willott

33 Declarations of interests

None at the meeting.

However, prior to the meeting, Kerrie Fox (Chair and HHELC representative) had declared an interest, insofar as her establishment was partly the subject of the only substantive item (item 5, minute 36, 'Education for children unable to attend school for health reasons') and as she would need to leave the meeting prior to consideration of the item, sent her apologies for the meeting.

34 Minutes

The Forum agreed the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 January 2024 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair presiding at the meeting.

35 Membership

- (1) the appointment of Jill Wilkinson (a Governor at Rosslyn Park Academy) as a Primary Academy representative was noted;
- (2) Terry Smith (a Maintained Primary representative) informed members that this would be his last meeting due to his retirement at the end of term.

The Chair and members thanked him for his attendance and contribution to the Forum over the years.

36 Education for children unable to attend school for health reasons

Jennifer Hardy (Interim Head of Access to Learning), Maddi Popoola (Mental Health Support Team Service Manager) and Donna Munday (High Needs Senior Commercial Business Partner), presented the report, which detailed the following:

- a) Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 has always required Local Authorities to make provision for children who are unable to attend school due to illness, permanent exclusion or other reason. However, the Department for Education (DfE), has issued revised guidance for schools, settings and Local Authorities about how to support children unable to attend school for health reasons;
- b) the revised guidance supports the updated 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' guidance, which becomes statutory in August 2024;

- c) in order to meet the growing demand for support for children with health needs, as well as allowing the Council to meet this statutory duty, a proposal for a policy, a new team and a new process has been developed, and is outlined in more detail in the report;
- d) despite the significant increase in workload, demand and resources that both new pieces of guidance will create for schools, settings and the Local Authority, the DfE are not allocating any additional funding for this work;
- e) instead, the guidance for supporting children unable to attend school for health reasons refers to the ongoing expectation that alternative provision for children with medical needs is funded by local authorities' high-needs budgets, which is a legitimate use of high-needs funding;
- f) a new team will be established in the existing Mental Health Support Team to support young people not attending school for mental health reasons. This team will comprise of 4x FTE Child Welfare Practitioners, 4x FTE Education Mental Health Practitioners, 1x FTE Clinical Supervisor and 1x FTE Team Manager, at a cost of £434,156. It is estimated this team could support approximately 240 children at a time;
- g) new roles would need to be established in the Council to oversee this process - an Education Panel Programme Manager, a Co-ordinator, and two Education Welfare type roles to support with safeguarding and oversight of the children open to this service, at a cost of £183,267;
- h) if children are unable to access education via their home school, the Local Authority may put an education provision in place. This budget (of £450,000) could be used for online learning, to fund additional Teaching Assistants at HHELC under their Outreach Programme, or to purchase AV1 Bots to allow children to access a remote education. Funding not spent in the 2024/25 academic year would be returned to the High-needs budget;
- i) it is proposed to fund this model for 12 months initially, with a view to bringing an update report to Schools Forum in 2025 for review;
- j) while the costs outlined in this paper are significant, they represent an investment in a model that can bring significant change for children and their families, and support schools to re-engage young people;
- k) the DfE guidance driving this proposal is not specific about what provision local authorities should provide for children with mental health issues, and a scaled down version of this package could be considered. However, at this time it is felt this whole package would best meet the needs of our most vulnerable children.

Resolved, following consideration and discussion of the report at the meeting, to approve spend of up to £1,067,423 for the 2024/25 academic year to support the Council's response to the amended DfE guidance, the cost of which be funded from the DSG High Needs Block.

37 Dates of future meetings

Schools Forum - 16.07.24

It was agreed to meet remotely via Zoom at 1.45pm on the following Tuesdays during the 2024/25 academic year:

2024

08 October

03 December

2025

21 January

29 April

24 June



Nottingham City Council
Schools Forum Constitution and Rules of
Conduct

(Reviewed – 08 October 2024)

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1 Terms of reference	2
2 Membership	
2.1 Make-up	3
2.2 Structure	4
2.3 School members	4
2.4 Non-school members	4
2.5 General membership issues	4
2.6 Membership restrictions	5
3 Membership periods of office	5
4 Observers/speakers	5
5 Substitution arrangements	6
6 Forum administration	
6.1 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair	6
6.2 Voting procedures	6
6.3 Quorum	7
6.4 Declarations of interests	7
6.5 Meetings	8
6.6 Urgent business	9
6.7 Changing dates / times of meetings	9
6.8 Clerking & administration	9
6.9 Members' expenses	9
6.10 Charging of schools' forum's expenses	10
Rules of Conduct - expectations and responsibilities of Schools Forum members and the Local Authority	11
Appendix 1 – election procedures	13
Appendix 2 – exempt information categories	16
Appendix 3 – voting rights	18

1. Terms of Reference

- 1.1 The Schools Forum is both a consultative and decision-making body whose purpose is to advise the local authority in line with the *Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012*. In the event that any item within this constitution contradicts these regulations, the regulations will take precedence.
- 1.2 The Schools Forum is to be consulted on the following local authority proposals:
- i. amendments to the schools funding formula (for which voting is restricted by the exclusion of non-school members except for Private, Voluntary and Independent nursery representatives);
 - ii. arrangements for the education of pupils with special educational needs;
 - iii. arrangements for the use of Pupil Referral Units and the education of children otherwise than at school;
 - iv. arrangements for Early Years provision;
 - v. administrative arrangements for the allocation of central government grants paid to schools via the local authority;
 - vi. when a contract is being proposed for supplies and services which is to be funded from the Schools Budget and is in excess of the EU procurement thresholds (consultation must take place at least one month prior to the issue of invitation to tender);
- 1.3 The Schools Forum must inform the governing bodies of all schools maintained by the local authority of the results of any consultations carried out in relation to the above.
- 1.4 Locally, it has been agreed that the Schools Forum is to be consulted on the following local authority proposals in addition to those in 1.2 above:
- i. arrangements for insurance;
 - ii. prospective revisions to the Local Authority's scheme for the financing of schools;
 - iii. arrangements for free school meals.
- 1.5 The Schools Forum must be consulted on any of the following proposals, and the proposals will need to be agreed by the Secretary of State, to:
- i. vary the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), pupil numbers, the lump sum for amalgamating schools, and the protection for special schools and special academies;
 - ii. use exceptional factors;
 - iii. allow additional categories of, or spending on, central budgets;
 - iv. amend the sparsity factor.

1.6 The Schools Forum can make decisions on the following local authority proposals and, in all cases, can appeal to the Department for Education if the Schools Forum rejects its proposals:

- i. de-delegation from mainstream school budgets for prescribed services to be provided centrally (with separate approvals required for maintained primary and secondary phase proposals);
- ii. creating a fund for significant pupil growth in order to support the local authority's duty for place planning and agree the criteria for maintained schools and academies to access this fund;
- iii. creating a fund for falling rolls for good or outstanding schools if the schools' surplus capacity is likely to be needed within the next three years to meet rising pupil numbers, and agree the criteria for maintained schools and academies to access this fund;
- iv. agreeing other centrally retained budgets, including for local authority statutory responsibilities;
- v. funding for central early years expenditure (including checking eligibility of pupils for an early-years place and / or free school meals);
- vi. authorising a reduction in the school's budget in order to fund a deficit arising in central expenditure, or from de-delegated services, which is to be carried forward from a previous funding period;
- vii. moving up to 0.5% from the schools' block to other blocks.

1.7 Revisions to the regulations will automatically be incorporated into the constitution as and when prescribed by the Department for Education and the Schools' Forum will be notified. If changes to the regulations result in there being more than one option or if the changes are optional, the Schools Forum will be consulted prior to making any changes.

1.8 In any event, the constitution will be reviewed annually at the first meeting of the academic year (September or October).

1.9 The Schools Forum must meet a minimum of four times each academic year.

1.10 Changes as a result of review or proposed at any meeting of the Forum can be agreed by a two thirds majority of members present, subject to the agreement of the local authority.

2. Membership

2.1 Schools Forums must have school members, academy members and non-school members. School and academy members must number at least two thirds of the total membership of the Schools Forum, and the balance between maintained primary and academy primary and secondary members must be broadly proportionate to the pupil numbers in each category.

2.2 The structure of the Forum will be reviewed annually, as part of the annual review of the constitution at the first meeting of the academic year (September / October) to ensure that the balance is maintained.

2.3 School Members

Note: Section 4, paragraph (5) of the ‘Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012’ states that ‘*At least one member must be a representative of the governing bodies of schools and at least one member must be a representative of the head teachers of maintained schools*’.

Maintained Primary Schools	3
Academies and Free Schools	9 (4 primary / 5 secondary)
Special Schools	1
Special Academies and Free Schools	1
The Nottingham Nursery	1
Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	1
AP Academies and Free Schools	1

2.4 Non-School Members (1x representative from each)

Early Years Private, Voluntary, Independent (PVI)
14-19 (from FE colleges in the city)
Collective Trades Unions

Total Membership: 20, of which:

School Members: 17 (85%)

Non-School Members: 3 (15%)

2.5 General Membership issues

2.5.1 No individual school can have more than one representative on the Forum. Unless otherwise specified in 2.1, each school or academy will need to decide whether they intend to nominate a Headteacher or a Governor before either put themselves forward through the relevant election procedures (as outlined in appendix 1 of this constitution).

2.5.2 Schools may only offer a representative for the relevant School Member category and no other categories.

2.5.3 Each member will have a single vote.

2.6 Membership Restrictions

- 2.6.1 Elected members who hold an executive role in a local authority (i.e. an Executive Member) cannot be either a school's member (as a Governor) or a non-school's member of the Forum.
- 2.6.2 The Interim Corporate Director for Children and Education Services, and any officer in their directorate and who does not directly provide education to children, cannot be a member of the Forum.
- 2.6.3 Any officer employed by the local authority that has a role in the strategic resource management of the authority cannot be a member of the Forum.

3. Membership periods of office

- 3.1 Members of the Forum will serve for three years from the date of their full election to the Forum. The election procedures detailed in Appendix 1 will be followed if a member vacancy occurs during the 3-year period or if the structure of the membership changes following the annual review of the constitution.
- 3.2 A Forum member remains in office until (whichever comes first):
 - (a) the member's term of office expires OR the member no longer holds the office which made them eligible for election, selection and appointment to the Forum OR the member resigns from the Forum by giving notice in writing to the Clerk / authority;
 - (b) in the case of a non-school's member, the member is replaced by the authority, at the request of the body which the member represents, by another person nominated by that body.
- 3.3 If a member misses three consecutive meetings without substitute or apology, the Forum has the discretion to remove them from the membership by a vote at the next quorate meeting.

4. Observers / speakers

- 4.1 Non-voting observers are entitled to attend and speak at meetings, as follows:
 - i. the Director for Education Services (or their representative);
 - ii. the Corporate Director for Finance (or their representative);
 - iii. the Executive Member with primary responsibility for children's services and/or education in the authority (an elected member of the authority);
 - iv. the Executive Member with primary responsibility for the resources of the authority (an elected member of the authority);
 - v. any person who is invited by the Forum to provide financial or technical advice to the Forum;
 - vi. an observer appointed by the Secretary of State;

- vii. any person invited to present a paper or other item to the Forum that is on the meeting's agenda, with the right to speak limited to matters relating to that item.

5. Substitutes

- 5.1 Positions on the Forum are held by named representatives. If a member of the Forum is unable to attend meetings, with the exception of the Secondary School substitute (see 2.1 above) any nominated substitute is permitted per member, but the substitute must be from the same membership category, for example, a substitute for a maintained primary school member must be from a maintained primary school.

6. Forum administration

6.1 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- 6.1.1 Before the first meeting of the new academic year, each Forum member will receive a complete list of members on the Forum via email.
- 6.1.2 Members will then have until 5 working days before the date of the first meeting to make a nomination (by email to the Clerk of the Forum) for Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the Forum.
- 6.1.3 All members, schools and non-schools (but not observers), are eligible for election to these positions, but two Headteachers, two Governors or two non-school members should not hold the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair simultaneously, unless agreed by the Forum.
- 6.1.4 The Chair and Vice-Chair must not be from the same membership category.
- 6.1.5 The Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected annually. An existing Chair or Vice-Chair can be re-elected, but an individual's term of office must not exceed 3 consecutive years (they can be re-elected following a minimum 1 years' gap if members so wish).
- 6.1.6 To be elected, the person nominated must receive the majority of votes cast at the meeting. Where there are an equal number of votes cast for each candidate, 'lots' will be drawn to determine the successful nominee.
- 6.1.7 Any person nominated will retain their right to vote.

6.2 Voting Procedures

- 6.2.1 Every item requiring a decision to be made at a meeting of the Forum will be determined by a majority of the votes of members eligible to vote on the issue in accordance with the following:
- only maintained primary school representatives can vote on primary school de-delegations;
 - only maintained secondary school representatives can vote on secondary school de-delegations;

- all schools, academy and free school members can vote on any other matter, including consultation on the schools funding formula;
- for non-school members:
 - only the PVI representative can vote on the consultation on the funding formula;
 - all non-school members can vote on any other matter (except delegation).

6.2.2 Apart from as detailed above, all members are entitled to vote on all matters put to a vote.

6.2.3 Where a member votes, the member must only cast one vote and each member's vote must have an equal weighting. The Chair will not have a casting vote.

6.2.4 In the event of a tie the proposal being voted on will be deemed not agreed and the local authority can request the Secretary of State to adjudicate (as advised in the Education & Skills Funding Agency's 'Schools Forums: Operational and good practice guide March 2021').

6.2.5 If any member requests that their vote is recorded, the minutes of the meeting will record whether he or she voted for or against the item or abstained.

6.2.6 The Forum can choose to appoint working group(s) to examine any matters put before it by the local authority.

6.2.7 Any working group(s) will have no decision-making powers and can only recommend courses of action to the full Forum so that a final decision can be taken at a quorate meeting and a response to the local authority can be given.

6.3 Quorum

6.3.1 The quorum for a meeting of the Schools' Forum is two fifths (40%) of current voting members (excluding vacancies and observers) i.e. 8 members when the Forum has full membership in place (20 representatives). Any recommendation to the local authority from a quorate meeting of the Schools' Forum will require the local authority, under the regulations, to give full consideration to that recommendation before making any decisions.

6.3.2 A non-quorate meeting of the Schools' Forum may still consider items which don't require a decision. Where a decision from the Forum is required, the Forum should follow the urgency provision detailed in 6.6.

6.4 Declarations of Interest

6.4.1 Forum members are expected to declare interests in any matter arising in accordance with the City Council's Constitution.

6.4.2 All agendas for meetings of Schools Forum will include an item inviting members and observers to declare any interest(s) in any matters under discussion.

6.5 Meetings

6.5.1 Frequency of meetings and distribution of papers

- i. The Schools Forum will meet in public (normally remotely, livestreamed) at least 4 times each academic year and as specified by the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012.
- ii. At the first meeting of the academic year, the Forum will confirm the dates, times and venue that it will meet during that academic year.
- iii. The standard distribution method for Schools' Forum papers will be an alert to notify members that the agenda is available on the Council's website and accessible via the Modern.gov iPad App. Individual members may approach the Clerk to discuss alternative methods to be used.

6.5.2 Access to Information Procedure Rules (including notice of meetings and the publication / exemption of reports)

- i. The Schools Forum has chosen to apply the Access to Information Procedure Rules, as set out in Nottingham City Council's Constitution.
- ii. The Council will give at least 5 clear days' notice of any meeting to be held by posting details of that meeting at Loxley House, Station Street, NG2 3NG.
- iii. Copies of the agenda and reports will be open to the public and available for inspection either on the Council's website or at Loxley House (upon request to the Clerk) at least 5 clear working days before the meeting. Where reports open to the public are prepared after the agenda has been published, they will be made available to the public as soon as completed and sent to members.
- iv. The public must be excluded from meetings whenever it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that confidential information would be disclosed. Confidential information means information given to the Council by a Government Department on terms which forbid its public disclosure or information which cannot be publicly disclosed by Court Order or other legal provision.
- v. The public may be excluded from meetings whenever it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that exempt information would be disclosed. Exempt information means information falling within the 7 categories (subject to the qualifications and definitions indicated) detailed in Appendix 2. All categories are subject to a Public Interest Test in that exemption is possible if, and only so long as, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

6.5.3 Setting the agenda

- i. Any Forum member can request items to be included on the agenda, provided that the request is received by the Clerk by the published draft report deadline for the next meeting. Any papers to be included on the agenda must also be submitted, in the appropriate format, by the draft report deadline specified for the meeting at which it is to be considered.

6.5.4 Minutes

- i. Minutes of Forum meetings will be written by the Clerk and submitted to the next meeting of Forum for approval, and signed by the Chair as confirmation that they are a true record of the meeting.

6.6 Urgent business

- 6.6.1 Urgent reports not included on the agenda will still be permitted providing that reasons for urgency are given and that the Chair of the Forum agrees both that the report is urgent and that they are happy to include it on the agenda for consideration. Good practice dictates that this should only be done in exceptional circumstances.
- 6.6.2 If the local authority requires an urgent decision on a matter before the date of the next scheduled meeting, the local authority will first attempt to schedule an extraordinary meeting.
- 6.6.3 Should it not be possible to schedule an extraordinary meeting, the local authority will email / write to all Forum members detailing the appropriate background to the decision and options available and requesting a response. Simple majority rules will apply. The decision must then be reported to the next meeting of Forum for minuting.

6.7 Changing dates / times of meetings

- 6.7.1 The Forum confirms the dates and times of its meetings at the first meeting of the academic year. The resolution regarding dates / times can, therefore, only be changed by another Forum resolution.
- 6.7.2 If the Chair wishes to alter the date / time of a forum meeting, the proposed revised date / time should be included on the next agenda for the Forum to agree. If the Chair wishes to alter the date / time of the next meeting, and there is no Forum meeting at which it can be agreed, they will take the decision in consultation with the Vice-Chair, and the Clerk will notify Forum members.

6.8 Clerking and administration

- 6.8.1 The Director of Education Services will arrange for governance and administrative support for the meetings of the Schools Forum from the Governance Services Team within Legal and Democratic Services.
- 6.8.2 The Clerk to the Forum (Governance Officer) will be responsible for election procedures, compiling the agenda for each meeting, distributing papers, ensuring that decisions are taken in accordance with this constitution and relevant legislation, and publishing the agenda (5 clear days prior to the meeting) and minutes of the meeting (as soon as possible after the meeting) on the City Council's website.

6.9 Members' expenses

- 6.9.1 The authority must reimburse all reasonable expenses of members in connection with their attendance at meetings of the Forum, in line with the Members

Allowances Scheme in section GFD-C of the City Council's Constitution, and charge those expenses to the school's budget.

6.10 Charging of Schools Forum's expenses

6.10.1 The authority must pay the expenses of the Schools Forum and charge those expenses to the school's budget.

Rules of Conduct

Expectations and responsibilities of Schools Forum members / the Local Authority.

A. Schools Forum members will:

1. Ensure that any interest in any item for discussion at Forum meetings is declared at the meetings, in accordance with Nottingham City Council's Constitution.
2. Ensure that they are representative of, and present the views of, their elective / nominating group at meetings.
3. Ensure that all reports and other papers distributed are reviewed prior to each individual meeting.
4. Gather views and provide feedback to individual elective / nominate groups in advance of and after Forum meetings.
5. Be responsible to their elective groups for the feedback of items discussed at, and decisions taken by, Forum.
6. Identify any training requirements to the local authority to inform the Forum's induction and training provision.
7. Ensure, through the use of substitutes, that each elective / nominating group is represented at every meeting.
8. Within their representative group, consider nominations for the Chair and Vice-Chair prior to the elections to this position held annually at the first meeting of the Forum at the start of the academic year.

B. The local authority will:

1. Ensure that reports and other documents which require the Forum to make a decision are issued at least 5 clear working days in advance of meetings and (where possible) minutes within 10 working days after the meeting.
2. Ensure that all Forum meetings are supported and attended by appropriate senior officers relevant to the items to be discussed at the meeting.
3. Provide a Chair's briefing meeting for the Forum Chair and Vice-Chair in advance of the meeting.
4. Publish reports, other relevant documents and minutes of meetings on the City Council's website.
5. Through the Schools' Funding team, ensure that the Forum is informed of any proposed changes in legislation that will impact upon the work of the Forum.
6. Provide appropriate training and induction to new Forum members (if requested) and provide appropriate on-going training to Forum Members to ensure they are able to effectively discharge their responsibilities.

7. Present formal budget proposals for approval at one meeting in the autumn term to enable informed strategic decisions and prioritisation. Ad hoc budget proposals may be presented at other points in the year providing there is a budget contingency set by the Forum or if additional funding becomes available. It will be a condition of all specific funding allocations that the designated lead officer or organisation provides formal feedback (as determined by the Forum) on the actual use of funding to provide accountability and enable the Forum to monitor the use of funds.
8. Keep the Forum informed of strategic developments and service issues which may result in a request for additional funding where the financial impact would fall to be met from the Schools Budget.
9. Facilitate and support workshops and working groups necessary to support both the consultative and decision-making responsibilities of the Forum.

Election Procedure

1. School Members

1.1 Primary (including Nursery Schools attached to primary schools and Voluntary Controlled Schools) Headteachers

The Clerk to the Forum will write to all Headteachers of Primary Schools inviting self nominations for primary Headteacher representatives and requesting that they consult with each other through existing mechanisms / procedures to agree on the number of Headteacher representatives to put forward specified in 2.1 of the Schools' Forum constitution.

1.2 Primary (including Nursery Schools attached to primary schools and Voluntary Controlled Schools) Governors

The Clerk to the Forum will write to all Chairs of Governors of Primary Schools inviting a single nomination per governing body and requesting that they consult with each other through existing mechanisms / procedures to agree on the number of Governor representatives specified in 2.1 of the Schools' Forum constitution.

It is for each governing body to determine how they select their representative to put forward.

Governors should consult with their school to ensure the Headteacher is not already an elected member. Where the Headteacher election and Governor elections are taking place at the same time, decision making will be staggered so that headteachers are selected first. Any nominations from Governors from schools where the Headteacher has been selected as member of the Forum will then be excluded from the Governor selection process.

1.3 Secondary Headteachers (Including Voluntary Aided or Foundation Schools)

The Clerk to the Forum will write to all Headteachers of Secondary Schools inviting self nominations for secondary Headteacher representatives and requesting that they consult with each other through existing mechanisms / procedures to agree on the number of Headteacher representatives to put forward specified in 2.1 of the Schools' Forum constitution. **The Headteacher representative will appoint a Governor from the same school as a substitute.**

1.4 The Nottingham Nursery

The Clerk to the Forum will write to the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors, to invite self nomination. It will then be for the Headteacher and Chair of Governors to decide who to put forward as the representative.

1.5 Special Schools

The Clerk to the Forum will write to all Headteachers and Chairs of Governors, to invite self-nomination. It will then be for the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors to decide who to put forward as the representative.

1.6 **Pupil Referral Unit**

The Clerk to the Forum will write to all Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) to invite self nomination. It will then be for the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors to decide who to put forward as the representative.

1.7 **Academy and Free Schools**

Primary Academy Schools

The Clerk to the Forum will write to all Headteachers and Governors of Primary Academy Schools inviting nominations for primary Academy representatives and requesting that they consult with each other through existing mechanisms / procedures to agree on the number of primary Academy representatives to put forward specified in 2.1 of the Schools' Forum constitution.

1.8 **Secondary Academy and Free Schools**

The Clerk to the Forum will write to all Headteachers and Governors of Secondary Academy Schools inviting nominations for secondary Academy representatives and requesting that they consult with each other through existing mechanisms / procedures to agree on the number of secondary Academy representatives to put forward specified in 2.1 of the Schools' Forum constitution.

Support will be provided to schools by the Head of Education Partnerships and / or the Education Partnerships Manager to co-ordinate nominations and selection of representative to put forward to the Forum.

A clear record of the process used by each membership category to select its representatives to put forward should be provided to the Clerk of the Forum;

1.9 **Special Academies and Free Schools**

The Clerk to the Forum will write to all Headteachers and Governors of Special Academies and Free Schools to invite self-nominations. It will then be for the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors to decide who to put forward as the representative.

1.10 **AP Academies and Free Schools**

The Clerk to the Forum will write to all Headteachers and Governors of AP Academies and Free Schools to invite self-nominations. It will then be for the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors to decide who to put forward as the representative.

2 **Non-School Members**

2.1 **Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers (PVI)**

The Head of Early Years (Children and Families) will write to all Nottingham City PVI members to invite self nominations. A ballot will be undertaken at the Early Years and Childcare briefing where the representative to put forward will be agreed.

2.2 **Trade Unions**

The Clerk to the Forum will write to trade unions to invite nominations. It is for each trade union to determine how they select their representative to put forward. It will then be for the trade unions to decide who to put forward as the representative.

2.3 **16-19**

The Clerk to the Forum will write to the Principals of all 14-19 (Further Education) colleges which serve the city to invite nominations. It is for each college to determine how they select their representative to put forward. It will then be for the Principals to decide who to put forward as the representative.

Exempt information categories

<u>Category</u>		<u>Qualifications / definitions</u>
1.	Information relating to any individual.	
2.	Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.	
3.	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).	<p>Information is not exempt information if it is required to be registered under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Companies Act 1985; (b) the Friendly Societies Act 1974; (c) the Friendly Societies Act 1992; (d) the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978; (e) the Building Societies Act 1986; or (f) the Charities Act 1993 <p>Information is not exempt if it relates to proposed development for which the Local Planning Authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992.</p> <p>'financial or business affairs' includes contemplated, as well as past or current, activities</p> <p>'registered' in relation to information required to be registered under the Building Societies Act 1986 means recorded in the public file of any building society (within the meaning of that Act).</p>
4.	Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.	<p>'employee' means a person employed under a contract of service</p> <p>'labour relations matter' means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) any of the matters specified in paragraphs (a) to (g) of section 218 (1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (matters which may be the subject of a trade dispute, within the meaning of that Act); or (b) any dispute about a matter falling within paragraph (a) above;

		<p>and for the purposes of this definition the enactments mentioned in paragraph (a) above, with the necessary modifications, shall apply in relation to office-holders under the authority as they apply in relation to employees of the authority;</p> <p>‘office-holder’, in relation to the authority, means the holder of any paid office, appointments to which are or may be made or confirmed by the authority or by any joint board on which the authority is represented or by any person who holds any such office or is an employee of the authority.</p>
5.	Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.	
6.	<p>Information which reveals that the authority proposes to give under any enactment:</p> <p>(a) a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or</p> <p>(b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.</p>	
7.	Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.	

Voting rights

Type of Member	A	B	C
School Members			
Maintained Primary Schools	✓	✓	✓
Academies (primary & secondary)	✓		✓
Special Schools	✓		✓
Special Academies and Free Schools	✓		✓
The Nottingham Nursery	✓		✓
Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	✓		✓
AP Academies and Free Schools	✓		✓
Non-School Members			
Early Years Private, Voluntary, Independent (PVI)	✓		✓
16-19 (FE colleges)			✓
Collective Trades Unions			✓

***Vote**

A	Funding Formula
B	De-delegated decisions for Maintained Primary Schools
C	Any other Schools' Forum business

This page is intentionally left blank

Title:	Schools Forum Working Group re-establishment
Corporate Director: Director:	Jill Colbert – Children and Education Services Ailsa Barr - Children’s Integrated Services
Report authors and contact details:	Jennifer Hardy, Interim Head of Access to Learning Jennifer.Hardy@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Donna Munday, Senior Commercial Business Partner, High Needs Donna.Munday@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Summary	
<p>We are looking to re-introduce the Schools Forum Working Group (SFWG) that has historically looked at budget activity.</p> <p>The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is received each year from the Department for Education, it is then distributed via the budget setting process across the City of Nottingham. We welcome input and consultation from all members of the forum into this budget setting process and believe that a working group can be helpful in this process.</p> <p>This report sets out Terms of Reference (ToR), proposed membership, and a proposed work programme that considers the current challenges faced by schools and settings within the City of Nottingham.</p>	
Recommendations:	
1	To approve the Schools Forum Working Group Terms of Reference and membership (as per appendix A and section 2.2 below).
2	To note the proposed work programme (as per appendix B).
3	To request members to volunteer to join this Schools Forum Working Group.

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 The recommendation will support the re-establishment and use of the SFWG on a more formal basis, undertaking the financial reviews required to support the development of school budgets, and development of future funding models and initiatives e.g. replacement of AP model.
- 1.2 The Schools Forum - Operational and good practice guide March 2021 states: *It’s open to a schools’ forum to set up working groups of members to discuss specific issues, and to produce draft advice and decisions for the schools forum itself to consider. The groups can also include wider representation, for example, an early year’s reference group can represent all the different types of provider to consider the detail of the early years single funding formula. The reference group would then be able to give its considered view on the local authority’s proposals to the school’s forum. The school’s forum should not delegate actual decisions or the finalisation of advice to a working group, as this may have the effect of excluding legitimate points of view. These have proved effective for larger local authorities; examples of some working groups are for high needs and early years.*

1.3 This working group will have no formal decision-making powers and is set up as a consultative group of Forum, with findings / recommendations being submitted to / agreed at full Forum.

2. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

2.1 Looking ahead there are a number of financial issues which will require a more detailed discussion with Forum e.g., the AP Inclusion Model is no longer encouraging inclusion within our secondary schools, and a lack of inclusion is becoming more prevalent across the wider age ranges. This is an area where consideration is needed as to how best to proceed to deliver quality inclusion and as a result – how best to fund it.

This is not the only area where consideration is needed and therefore the use of the SFWG is expected to empower:

- a detailed analysis/discussion of these issues to be undertaken.
- the ability to undertake detailed consultation regarding budget issues and proposed projects and initiatives.
- a more detailed understanding of the budget to be gained by Forum members.
- recommendations to be presented back to Forum that have been agreed at the SFWG. This prevents Forum having to undertake lengthy detailed operational discussions, ensuring that Forum time is focused on more strategic educational issues.

2.2 To ensure all sectors are represented on the working group, membership will be:

- The working Group will appoint a Chair who is also a member of Schools Forum.
- A maintained primary sector representative.
- An academy primary sector representative.
- An academy secondary sector representative.
- A special school representative
- A PRU representative
- A Trade Union representative
- An Early Years representative
- A Post 16 provider representative

A senior local authority finance officer will be a joint Lead Officer for the SFWG, working collaboratively with a Senior Education Officer

Other local authority finance officers and other officers, and/or Forum representatives, and/or school and setting representatives will be invited to working group meetings as is appropriate to the discussion(s) or bench marking to be undertaken.

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

3.1 Not establishing a SFWG could / would prevent the detailed discussions required on certain budget issues to be undertaken.

3.2 Establishing a SFWG allows for consultation and wider consideration to be given to initiatives and projects. For example, a decision could be taken by the Schools Forum

voting to accept and adopt a report by a working group after the group has met to discuss, consider and recommend a preferred use of the DSG.

4. Outcomes/deliverables

- 4.1 To ensure that Forum have the assurance that challenge of budgets being set are taking place and an understanding of decisions that are being taken at Forum has been achieved.

5. Financial implications (including value for money)

- 5.1 The formal re-establishment of the SFWG will enable detailed budget discussions to be undertaken with members of Forum. This reduced group size will facilitate more robust discussions, ensuring the budgets set support value for money and support the objectives and values of the schools Forum
- 5.2 These discussions will ensure budget construction is developed in accordance with the latest Schools and Early Years Financial Regulations.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 This paper does not present any significant legal concerns.
- 6.2 The Schools Forum must continue to operate in accordance with the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012 and other relevant guidance; it is noted that the SFWG will explicitly not be a decision-making body.

Anthony Heath, Head of Legal Services - 16 September 2024.

7. HR issues

- 7.1 None.

8. Equality impact assessment

- 8.1 An EIA is not needed as the report does not contain new or changing policies or proposals.

9. List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information

- 9.1 None.

10. Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 10.1 Schools Forum Paper 22/06/2017.

APPENDIX A

Terms of Reference

Schools Forum Working Group (SFWG)

- 1 **The role of the SFWG** is to act as a consultative group on financial matters relating to schools and any wider education issues referred to it by the Schools Forum.

(Financial matters include, but are not limited to, areas such as the school funding formula, benchmarking analysis, review of use of reserves and any other financial issues that may require consultation with the group on behalf of Forum.)

- 2 **Appointment of SFWG:**

- 2.1 The membership of SFWG will align to financial years and the budget cycle. The membership and Chair of the group will be agreed by Forum.
- 2.2 The membership of the group will need to cover as a minimum Early Years, Primary Maintained, Primary Academy, Secondary Academy and Post 16.
- 2.3 The Chair will be nominated by SFWG and will be a Schools Forum member, but not a local authority officer.

- 3 **Meetings**

- 3.1 Finance and Senior Education officers will arrange, attend and set the agendas in consultation with the Chair of SFWG. There will be meetings where the finance officers request the attendance of other Local Authority officers and Head Teachers and Providers which are deemed appropriate to facilitate discussions.
- 3.2 The Lead Officer will circulate the agenda and supporting papers at least 5 working days before the meeting. The purpose and outcomes required from the meeting will be made clear on the agenda to enable the meeting to be as efficient and effective as possible.
- 3.3 Notes will be taken at the meeting as required by local authority officers.
- 3.4 Members are required to accommodate the meetings to ensure a balanced discussion is undertaken. Substitutes will be required, and meeting dates will be issued with at least 4 weeks' notice, however, there may be exceptional circumstances where this timeline is not achievable.

APPENDIX B

Date	Who / what	Requirement
22 Oct 2024	Working Group	2025/26 AP Inclusion Model Proposal 2025/26 Proposed De-delegated Budget
12 Nov 2024	Working Group	2025/26 AP Inclusion Model Proposal 2024/25 Revenue Monitoring Report 2025/26 Proposed High Needs Block Budget 2025/26 Proposed Schools Block Budget submission 2025/26 Proposed Early Years Budget 2025/26 Proposed Central Schools Services Block Budget
19 Nov 2024	Deadline	School Forum Papers Due
10 Dec 2024 (date TBC) due 31	Schools Forum	2024/25 Revenue Monitoring Report 2025/26 Proposed High Needs Block Budget 2025/26 Proposed Schools Block Budget submission 2025/26 Proposed Early Years Budget 2025/26 Proposed Central Schools Services Block Budget 2025/26 AP Inclusion Model Proposal 2025/26 Proposed De-delegated Budget
17 Dec 2024	Working Group	2025/26 AP Inclusion Model Proposal 2024/25 Revenue Monitoring Report
03 Jan 2025	Deadline	School Forum Papers Due
14 Jan 2025	Schools Forum	2024/25 Revenue Monitoring Report 2025/26 Final High Needs Block Budget 2025/26 Final Schools Block Budget 2025/26 Final Early Years Budget 2025/26 Final Central Schools Services Block Budget 2025/26 AP Inclusion Model

This page is intentionally left blank

Dedicated Schools Grant 2025/26 update

Under normal circumstances, Local Authorities receive a National Funding Formula update in July of each year ahead of the indicative funding allocations in December.

This is to enable consultation with schools around the Central School Services Block and De-delegation items, and consideration of local implications in applying the National Funding Formula Factors.

Where this is the case, we would ideally carry out the consultation at the start of the Autumn Term.

This briefing note is to inform Forum that this process has been delayed due to the calling of the General Election and, at this point in time we have not yet received any indication as to what the potential amendments could be.

As and when we do, we will commence a consultation, but it may be within a shortened timescale to be able to produce papers for the December Schools Forum meeting, which informs the completion of the Authority Proforma Tool (which has a submission date of 17/1/2025).

We will therefore request some flexibility around dates of Schools Forum meetings to enable us to fulfil the statutory requirements.

Sadrul Alam, Strategic Finance Business Partner
Sadrul.alam@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Date of meeting (1.45pm)	Item
03/12/24	2024/25 Revenue Monitoring Report
Or 10/12/24	2025/26 Proposed High Needs Block Budget
	2025/26 Proposed Schools Block Budget submission
	2025/26 Proposed Early Years Budget
	2025/26 Proposed Central Schools Services Block Budget
	2025/26 AP Inclusion Model Proposal
	2025/26 Proposed De-delegated Budget
	SF Membership (standing item if necessary)
21/01/25	2024/25 Revenue Monitoring Report
Or 14/01/25	2025/26 Final High Needs Block Budget
	2025/26 Final Schools Block Budget
	2025/26 Final Early Years Budget
	2025/26 Final Central Schools Services Block Budget
	2025/26 AP Inclusion Model
	SF Membership (standing item if necessary)
29/04/25	2024/25 Revenue Monitoring Report
	2024/25 Final Early Years Budget
	SFVS Submission Review
	SF Membership (standing item if necessary)
24/06/25	Scheme for Financing Schools Review
	2024/25 Revenue Outturn Report
	Maintained School balances
	Growth Fund
	Dates of 2025/26 meetings
	SF Membership (standing item if necessary)
October	Appointments of Chair & Vice-Chair

(Date tbc)	SF Constitution review
	SF Membership (standing item if necessary)
	2024/25 DSG Outturn Position
	2025/26 Revenue Monitoring Report