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**Dudley Schools Forum – 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2023**

**Report of the Director of Children’s Services**

**Schools Forum Proposed Meetings and Forward Plan for the 2023/24 Academic Year**

**Purpose**

1. To provide Schools Forum with a schedule of proposed meeting dates and Forward Plan for the 2023/24 academic year.

**Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities**

2. The current Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 state that a Schools Forum must meet at least four times a year and are quorate if at least two fifths of the total appointed membership is present at a meeting.

**Recommendation**

3. Schools Forum to consider the schedule of meetings proposed for 2023/24 academic year in Table 1 together with the proposed Forward Plan attached at Appendix A and to advise the Director of Children’s Services if any variations are required.

**Background**

4. The June meeting is the last scheduled meeting of the Forum for the 2022/23 academic year.
5. Whilst the Schools Forum Regulations state that a Schools Forum must meet at least four times a year, the Dudley Schools Forum normally meets six times a year and more frequently if there are strategic funding decisions to be made.
6. Following approval at a previous meeting, the proposed meetings will be held remotely with the option of a physical meeting if deemed necessary

by the Forum or the Local Authority and will commence at 6pm, as outlined in Table 1 below.

7. Table 1 – Proposed Schools Forum Meetings for 2023/24 Academic Year

| <b>Schools Forum Meeting</b>   | <b>Venue</b>    |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2023   | Microsoft Teams |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 | Microsoft Teams |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024  | Microsoft Teams |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 | Microsoft Teams |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2024    | Microsoft Teams |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2024     | Microsoft Teams |

8. Appendix A includes details of the proposed Forward Plan agenda items at this time, together with meeting dates for Head Teachers Consultative Forum – Budget Working Group for the 2023/24 academic year.

Schools Forum Training

9. A workshop to provide Schools Forum training will be arranged for September 2023 to provide further information regarding the roles and responsibilities of Schools Forum along with an update on latest information released from the Department for Education. Invitations will be issued to all members.

Budget Working Group

10. This report will be considered by the Budget Working Group on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.

**Finance**

11. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018.
12. From 1 April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

**Law**

13. The Schools Forum is a statutory decision making and consultative body constituted in line with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998,

and its associated regulations, including the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012, to enable members of the local school community to work in partnership with Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council when making decisions about school funding and finances.

14. Schools Forums are regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 as amended.

### **Risk Management**

15. There are no implications to the Council's Risk Management Framework that result from the proposals contained within this report.

### **Equality Impact**

16. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy is taken into account when considering the allocation of resources.

### **Human Resources/Organisational Development**

17. This report has no direct implications for organisational development, human resources or service transformation.

### **Commercial/Procurement**

18. There is no impact on the potential to commercially trade and no impact on our customer base.

### **Environment/Climate Change**

19. This report has no direct implications on the environment or the Council's work in addressing Climate Change and achieving Net Zero target by 2041.

### **Council Priorities and Projects**

20. The Dudley Council Plan 2019-2022 is clear in its ambitions for educational outcomes including raising skills, educational and work potential, increasing good or better schools and closing the gap for disadvantaged pupils. The role of Dudley Schools Forum is to advise the Council on matters affecting schools funding, principally the allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), and the local Fair Funding Formula which distributes budgets to schools, early years providers and other maintained education settings.

*Catherine Driscoll*

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**Director of Children's Services**

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**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Proposed Meetings and Forward Plan for the 2023/24  
Academic Year