

Schools Forum 9 December 2008

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Transforming Secondary Education – Building Schools for the Future and Academies

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum in respect of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Academies.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes – 19.11.08.

Action for Schools Forum

3. To note the contents of the report.

Attachments to Report

4. Cabinet report dated 29 October 2008 – Appendix A.

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
24 November 2008

Schools Forum 9 December 2008

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Transforming Secondary Education – Building Schools for the Future and Academies

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum in respect of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Academies.

Background

2. The Cabinet report dated 29 October, attached at Appendix A, includes comprehensive information in respect of BSF and academies for Dudley and is presented to Forum members for information in respect of the funding arrangements for BSF and academies.
3. Forum members are advised that the decision from the Cabinet meeting on 29 October, 2008 was that:
 - i. The progress to date on Building Schools for the Future and Academies be noted.
 - ii. The Cabinet determine to proceed with the Academies programme.
 - iii. The Expression of Interest for Building Schools for the Future be deferred to Wave 8 or a later Stage.
4. The Cabinet decision of 29 October has been 'called in' for scrutiny; as the relevant meeting will take before the next Schools Forum meeting on 9 December, Forum will be advised of the outcomes at the meeting.

Finance

5. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
6. Schools Forums are regulated by the School Forums Regulations 2002 as already amended by the Schools Forums (Amendment) Regulations 2004 the Schools Forums (Amendment) 2005 Regulations and the Schools Forums (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
7. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

8. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

10. Schools Forum to note the report in respect of Building Schools for the Future and Academies and any additional advice provided at the meeting in respect of the funding arrangements.



John Freeman

Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer:

Karen Cocker, Children's Services Finance Manager

Karen.cocker@dudley.gov.uk Tel: 01384 815382