**Introduction to the Schools Forum**

Bradford’s Schools Forum is a representative group of Headteachers, Governors and Non School members established by statutory instruments issued by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (the DCSF, now the DfE).

Forums were established nationally in 2002 primarily as bodies for Local Authorities to consult on School Budget related issues, such as formula funding, contracts funded from the Schools Budget, and provision for the education of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

The Regulations governing the composition and management of Forums are frequently updated by the Government. In 2006 the Regulations were revised to formalise and more closely prescribe Forum procedures. The importance of Forums as consultative bodies has been increased. Forums now have powers to approve certain proposals from the Local Authority that would previously have needed to have gone to the Secretary of State, such as approving adjustments to the calculation of a school’s minimum funding guarantee.

The main areas of business for Bradford’s Forum in a typical year are:

* Agreeing the funding formula and managing the review of this (via the Formula Funding Working Group; the FFWG and the Early Years Working Group; the EYWG) and consultation with schools
* Making recommendations on the allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant. This includes agreeing the ‘topslices’ to the Individual Schools Budget and the level of school specific contingency
* Managing and monitoring school deficit and surplus budget processes, through the Schools Financial Performance Group; the SFPG
* Agreeing changes in financial procedures and protocols e.g. the Scheme for Financing Schools, the Classification of Schools system, Light Touch Financial Monitoring and Intended Use of Balances

**The following information on Bradford’s Schools Forum is available via the Bradford Schools Online website for you to view and download:**

* **Agendas and minutes of Forum meetings**
* **The membership of the Forum and election procedures**
* **Current consultation papers on formula funding review and presentations from consultation sessions held with schools and other stakeholders**
* **The remit and minutes of meetings of the Formula Funding Working Group (the FFWG), which is the working sub group of the Forum that manages formula review**
* **The remit and minutes of meetings of the Early Years Working Group (the EYWG), which is the working sub group of the Forum that is currently reviewing the arrangements for the funding of Early Years provision across Bradford**

More information on School Forums is on BSO. Click [HERE](https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/Schools/CMSPage.aspx?mid=189) to access.

For further information on the membership, remit and work of Bradford’s Forum, please contact either

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