

## 2025/26 Forward Plan and Draft Agenda

<b>Date:</b> 26 June 2025	<b>Item</b> 11	<b>Type of report:</b> Information
<b>Report title:</b>	<b>2025/26 Forward Plan and Draft Agenda</b>	
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### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of the report is to propose a draft agenda for the next Schools' Forum meeting and to provide a forward plan of meeting dates and reports to be considered by the Schools' Forum for the 2025/26 academic year.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR SCHOOLS FORUM

That the Schools' Forum note:

2. The Forward Plan for meeting dates and the reports to be considered for the 2025/26 academic year; and
3. That agenda planning is an ongoing process, and additional reports may be required through the year.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. A Forward Plan for the next academic year has been developed alongside standard agenda items for each meeting.
5. At the last meeting of each academic year, the Local Authority (LA) will provide a Forward Plan and timetable confirming the meeting dates and reports that will be presented to the Schools' Forum throughout the year.

### KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. The Forward plan is for guidance, and it may be necessary for the LA to present additional reports and updates to the Schools' Forum during the year. The Schools' Forum may also commission its own reports and further information within the scope of the Schools' Forum roles and responsibilities.
7. The proposed Forward Plan for 2025/26 is included at **Appendix 1** and informs the draft agenda for the next meeting of the Schools' Forum.
8. The current Schools' Forum agenda includes the following standard items:
  - Apologies for absence
  - Declaration of interests

- Schools' Forum membership update
  - Minutes of the previous meeting
  - Feedback from Subgroups
  - Updates from Director of Children's Services (or nominated officer)
  - Date and draft agenda for next meeting
  - Forward plan
  - AOB (Any Other Business)
9. The Schools' Forum meeting dates for 2025/26 have been set as follows to enable appropriate input to DfE returns and statutory timelines:
    - **2 October 2025**
    - 11 December 2025
    - 15 January 2026
    - 19 March 2026
    - 25 June 2026
  10. The Schools' Forums must hold a minimum of four meetings per year, and the March 2026 meeting will only go ahead, if required.
  11. All meetings will be face to face, commence at 2pm and be held at the council's Tooley Street offices, if available.

## **CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS**

12. The minutes of the Schools' Forum meeting are published on Southwark Council's website, and it is expected that members of the Schools' Forum will report to the appropriate sectors they are representing.
13. The Schools' Forum is asked to note and comment on the content of this report, with specific points of note contained in paragraphs 2 and 3.

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Forward Plan 2025/26

## Forward Plan 2025/26

### 1. Introduction

The forward plan sets out the timetable for essential approvals and reports that will be brought to the Schools' Forum by officers throughout the following academic year, outside standard agenda items. Further reports will be added to the Schools' Forum agenda as and when required.

The purpose of the forward plan is to give plenty of notice and an opportunity for consultation on the issues to be discussed.

### 2. Forward Plan

Meeting	Reports
<b>October</b>	Induction training (new members) Election of Chair and Vice Chair Approve Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- including Subgroup Terms of Reference / Membership</li> </ul> Provisional Dedicated School Grant (DSG) allocations National Funding Formula updates Schools Block allocation proposals (for consultation), including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School Block transfer approval</li> <li>- Other consultation proposals</li> </ul> DSG Monitoring Safety Valve Agreement Monitoring Schools Internal Audit Summary Report SF commissioned reports
<b>December</b>	Technical training (all members) DSG Settlement (if announced) National Funding Formula updates Schools Block proposed allocation High Needs Block proposed allocation Early Years Block proposed allocation Central Schools Services Block and other central retentions proposed allocation DSG Monitoring SF commissioned reports
<b>January (before APT* is due)</b>	Technical training (all members) Schools Funding Formula – agreement (APT) DSG Budget setting for upcoming financial year DSG Monitoring Safety Valve Agreement Monitoring SF commissioned reports
<b>March</b>	TBC (To Be Confirmed)
<b>June</b>	DSG Outturn report School Balances Annual Adoption of Scheme for Financing Schools and School Financial Regulations (if no consultation required) Safety Valve Agreement Monitoring Schools Forum Constitution & Terms of Reference review (including Subgroups) Schools Forum Forward Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- including proposed meeting dates</li> </ul> Training programme (for the following academic year) SF commissioned reports

\*Authority Proforma Tool