

OVERVIEW of SOLIHULL SCHOOLS FORUM

In common with all Local Authorities, the Solihull Schools Forum is a statutory body established by the Education Act 2002.

The principal requirement is for Local Authorities to consult their Schools Forums on a range of financial matters concerning schools' budgets and resources. Solihull Schools Forum fulfils its role through a standing work group and an Executive committee. Solihull School Forum also actively engages with the Education SEND Group and works closely with SSSAB. Decisions are made at full Forum meetings which are held a minimum of four times a year and are open to members of the public.

Solihull Schools Forum has 34 permanent members, with representation from maintained schools and academies (governors, principals/head teachers and business managers), PVI early years providers, pupil referral units, 14-19 providers, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills, elected members and trade unions, in addition to senior Council officers.

Forum works closely with its work groups and Solihull Schools' Strategic Accountability Board to ensure a consistent and collaborative approach to the financing and resourcing of schools and education across the Borough.

Finance Work Group

The group discusses and makes recommendations to Forum on financial matters affecting schools, early years provision, alternative provision and the education of children with SEND, together with reviews of centrally provided services. Through regular Forecast Out-turn Statements, the group monitors spend across all areas of the Non-delegated DSG budget, including high needs, considers the effect of any variations and makes recommendations to Forum when action is required.

The group maintains an overview of centrally retained services and advises Forum on the implications of changes to the National Funding Framework.

The group also discusses and recommends on medium/long term capital investment priorities in Solihull schools, towards the transformation of education and improvement in standards through better buildings and facilities. Investment supporting key national policy objectives in addition to local priorities identified in the Schools Asset Management Plan and how capital expenditure can be distributed effectively in line with the full programme approved by Cabinet Member is also considered.

Opportunities are appraised to embellish programmes and projects in the context of bringing together revenue and capital opportunities for individual School Development Plans and monitors the Schools' Maintenance Programme. A report is provided to each Forum meetings on activities undertaken by the group.

Education/Special Educational Needs & Disability Work Group

The group operates as a strategy and policy advisory body to Schools Forum (and the Solihull Schools Strategic Accountability Board) on matters of special educational needs, disability and inclusion. The group's primary role is to consult and formulate recommendations on a range of SEND and inclusion issues for pupils with additional

educational needs in schools, pupil referral units and other specialist provision. It monitors SEND spend against efficient service delivery, whilst ensuring an effective link within the overall role of Forum and the Finance Work Group. Regular reports are provided to Forum on activities undertaken by the group, including inclusion and exclusion data and financial expenditure on SEND.

Schools Forum is a public body and its agenda and working papers are published on the dedicated Schools Forum website at: [Schools Forum](#)

In addition, briefings on decisions and items of interest are produced regularly, detailing work undertaken by Forum and its work groups; these are published on the website and circulated to schools, academies and Chairs of Governors via the Council's 'Headlines' communication platform.

SOLIHULL SCHOOLS FORUM Organisation Chart

