

MEETING:	SCHOOLS FORUM
MEETING DATE:	23 OCTOBER 2015
TITLE OF REPORT:	LOOKING TO THE FUTURE – TASK AND FINISH GROUPS
REPORT BY:	SCHOOL FINANCE MANAGER

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

County-wide.

Purpose

To seek the Forum's agreement on the proposed terms of reference for the looking to the future task and finish groups.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) the terms of reference for the task and finish groups be approved; and**
- (b) Schools Forum is asked to consider how best to involve school governors in the task and finish group process.**

Alternative Options

- 1 The task and finish groups will consider a range of actions and proposals as part of their work and will report back to schools forum with interim proposals in May/June 2016.

Reasons for Recommendations

2. To approve the terms of reference for the looking to the future task and finish groups

Key Considerations

Background

3. Following its meeting on 5 June 2015 Schools Forum held an informal workshop at which members of the Forum received a detailed presentation setting out the pressures on the education provision and funding streams in Herefordshire for the next five years. In order to plan ahead effectively Schools Forum and the council have responded by commissioning four task and finish groups to consider in detail four broad service areas and report back with proposals. The task and finish groups are as follows;
 - Outcomes
 - Capital
 - Early Years
 - High Needs
4. The groups have been charged with making interim recommendations and proposals to schools forum in May 2016, and following discussion at the Education Strategic Board, final recommendations by May 2017
5. The proposed terms of reference are set out in the appendix and have been endorsed by the forum's Budget Working Group (BWG). The consensus at the BWG was that the co-chairs identified for each group should finalise the membership. Suggested membership of the existing groups is set out in the appendix. The high needs group is to be reconstituted from the previous high needs tariff development group.
6. Additionally at this early stage Schools Forum is invited to consider how best to involve school governors in the task and finish group process.

Community Impact

7. There is no community impact at this stage as the report seeks agreement to the terms of reference. Any community impact will be considered as part of the development of interim and final proposals.

Equality and Human Rights

8. There are no implications for the public sector equality duty.

Financial Implications

9. There are no financial implications at this stage of the Looking to the Future work stream. The task and finish groups will clearly set out the financial implications for consideration in both their interim and final proposals.

Legal Implications

- 10 The purpose of this report is to seek the Schools Forum's agreement on the terms of reference for the Looking to the Future task and finish groups. As such there are no specific legal implications.

Risk Management

- 11 Risks will be managed by the inclusion of a wide membership for each of the task and finish groups and by further detailed consideration of the interim proposals by the Education Strategic Board and Schools Forum. Significant change proposals will be subject to further consultation with stakeholders.

Consultees

- 12 None at this stage.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Terms of reference looking forward task and finish groups

Background Papers

- None identified.