

MEETING:	Schools Forum
MEETING DATE:	5 June 2015
TITLE OF REPORT:	Budget Planning for the next Three Years
REPORT BY:	Assistant Director, Education And Commissioning

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To receive and consider a presentation on a range of information to inform the development of a financial approach for schools in Herefordshire for the next three years.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) the Schools Forum receive a presentation on the financial context that may come into place over the next three years; and**
- (b) establish a planning approach to develop a three year budget strategy.**

Alternative options

- 1 No alternatives are presented as it has been agreed that a presentation and workshop should take place. Schools Forum could adopt an approach to plan budgets on an annual basis but this would not enable the Forum to take a strategic approach and establish longer term pieces of work to alter spending and enable the dedicated schools budget to be managed effectively

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 It is prudent for the Schools Forum, schools representatives and Herefordshire Council officers to consider how to plan for possible financial scenarios over the next three years to enable resources to be effectively managed.

Key considerations

- 3 A presentation will be given at the meeting. This will contain a range of schools and council budget information, particular factors to consider and proposals on how to take the work forward.

Community impact

- 4 None at this stage.

Equality and human rights

- 5 Any resulting proposals will have to pay due regard to Section 149, the "General Duty" on public authorities as set out:

"A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct ... prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it."

Equality impact assessments will be carried out as any proposals are developed.

Financial implications

- 6 No implications at this stage.

Legal implications

- 7 The purpose of this report is to confirm arrangements to update the Schools Forum on future financial issues and to hold a planning workshop.
- 8 Section 10 of the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 sets out the local authority's duties to consult with the Schools Forum on school funding issues.
- 9 This is not a consultation and as such there are no specific legal implications.

Risk management

- 10 No risks are associated with debating a presentation.

Consultees

- 11 The chair and vice chair of the Schools Forum, and the chair of the budget working group have all agreed to this approach as a positive way of engaging school leaders.

Appendices

- None

Background papers

- None identified.