



Schools Forum Date: 20 March 2014 Time: 8.30 am Venue: Shrewsbury Training and Development Centre, Monkmoor, Shrewsbury	<u>Item</u>	<u>Paper</u> C
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TASK & FINISH GROUP ON SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY

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Summary

At their meeting on 7 November 2013 Schools Forum approved the terms of reference, membership and project timetable for a Task & Finish Group on School Sustainability. A report from the first meeting of the group on 28 November 2013 was presented to Forum on 5 December 2013.

This report provides an update from a further two meetings of the group, on 12 February and 6 March 2014.

The Government's announcement on 13 March 2014 on Fairer Schools Funding in 2015-16 has a significant impact on the work of the group

Recommendation

To note the minutes from the second and third meetings of the Task & Finish Group on School Sustainability 12 February and 6 March 2014. The views of Forum are also sought on the impact of the funding announcement on the planned work of the group.

REPORT

1. On 12 September 2013 Schools Forum agreed to the establishment of a Task & Finish Group on School Sustainability to carry out a budget led technical appraisal of the potential impact on Shropshire's current schools organisational structures following the implementation of the Government's school funding reforms from 2013 and the proposed introduction of a national fair funding formula from 2015-16. At Forum's meeting on 7 November 2013 the terms of reference, membership and project timetable for the group was approved.

2. A report went to Forum in December 2013 following the first meeting of the group at the end of November. There have been two further meetings of the group, on 12 February and 6 March 2014, the minutes for which are attached.
3. The group has proposed releasing a budget planning tool to all schools before the end of the spring term, to enable governing bodies to begin looking at the medium to longer term impact on their school's financial position of the recent funding reforms. At the time of putting forward this proposal, the group did not have any information on the Government's plans regarding the introduction of a national funding formula.
4. The announcement on 13 March of the consultation on a fairer funding system from April 2015, with an indicative uplift in Schools Block funding for Shropshire schools of £8.9m, has clearly not been considered by the group. The group have another diaried meeting on 5 June 2014. It is proposed that the group consider at this meeting the full impact of the Government's announcement on the sustainability issues for Shropshire schools, to update the budget planning tool to take account of the proposed changes and to determine the timetable and strategy for circulating this to schools.