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## Report to the Schools Forum

**Title:** Schools Forum Forward Plan March 2019 to January 2020

**Meeting date:** 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019

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### 1. Purpose of Agenda Item

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to set out a forward plan for Schools Forum for the next 12 months, through to budget setting for 2020-21

### 2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. A draft forward plan for Schools Forum for the period March 2019 to January 2020 is attached. The plan identifies the key papers that will be considered through the year in the lead up to the decisions on the 2020-21 budget which will be made in January 2020.
- 2.2. The plan takes in to account that the Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed that local authorities will continue to set a local formula in the financial year 2020-21. Operational guidance for the financial year will not be published until the summer of 2019 and so the plan currently includes the assumption that current flexibilities such as de-delegation will remain in place and therefore consultation with schools will be required during the autumn.
- 2.3. Other key pieces of work that will impact on the forward plan include the development of the SEND Improvement Plan and the SEND Sufficiency Strategy. Both of these will impact on spend within the High Needs Block and Schools Forum will play a key role in determining the financial strategy to support SEN improvement and the modelling of need going forwards. Whilst a SEND update report is included as a standing item for each Schools Forum meeting the forward plan may need to

be amended to reflect specific pieces of work where input from Schools Forum is required.

2.4. It is also proposed that an induction seminar is held for new members of Schools Forum. This should be on an annual basis and in the first instance it is proposed that this should take place in March 2019.

### **3. Recommendations**

**3.1. That Schools Forum approves the draft forward plan, subject to amendment as key strategies in relation to the High Needs Block are developed**