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| **AGENDA ITEM** |

**Title of report: Finance Information Timeline**

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**Officer to present the paper to Schools Forum: Kay Goodacre**

**Details on who has been consulted with on this paper to date:**

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| **Executive Summary.**  This paper sets out the timeline and flow of financial information in respect of schools funding from recent significant events until end of the 2020/21 financial year |

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| **Recommendations.**  Forum is asked to note and comment on the contents of this paper |

1. **Background.**
   1. The purpose of this paper is to help the Schools Forum and local authority (LA) to plan the local implementation of the funding system for the 2021/22 financial year, by highlighting the key significant dates in the Schools Finance timetable over the coming months.
   2. This will help inform when submissions to the Department for Education (DfE) are due, when data will become available and when decisions are required by the Schools Forum.
   3. Most of the dates contained within this report are taken from the provisional timetable in the Schools Operational Guide 2021-22, which can be found on the DfE website via the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-16-schools-funding-local-authority-guidance-for-2021-to-2022>
2. **Finance Information Timeline**
   1. The following table outlines the significant dates and events until the end of the 2020/21 financial year:

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| **Date** | **Event** |
| **01 October 2020** | **School Census Day**  Schools make a census return into COLLECT for Autumn 2020. |
| **25 November 2020** | **Autumn Spending Review**  The Chancellor announced that the schools’ budget will increase by £2.2bn |
| **30 November 2020** | **School Census Database Closed**  The LA review and cleanse the data before the database is closed |
| **02 December** | **Schools Forum** |
| **December 2020** | **Publication of 2021-22 DSG Blocks**  Publication of 2021-22:   * schools’ block (prior to academies recoupment) * central school services block * initial early years block allocations * initial high needs block allocations |
| **December 2020**  **(approx. w/c 14/12/20)** | **Final Authority Proforma Toolkit (APT) Issued**  The APT containing October 2020 census-based pupil data and factors and is issued to the LA.  The LA reviews the data and updates the local factors. |
| **13 January 2021** | **Schools Forum**  Consultation required for the final 2021/22 funding formula |
| **21 January 2021** | **Submission of Final 2021/22 APT**  LA submits the final APT to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) |
| **27 January 2021** | **Cabinet Meeting**  Political ratification of the final 2021/22 funding formula |

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| **Date** | **Event** |
| **28 February 2021** | **Confirmation of School Budgets Shares**  Confirmation of school budget shares to mainstream maintained schools |
| **By March 2021** | **Confirmation of Other 2021-22 Funding**  Confirmation of 2021-22 funding:   * General annual grant for academies open by 9 January 2021 * Allocation statements issued to post-16 institutions, academies, and non-maintained special schools * High needs place numbers at institution level. |
| **By April 2021** | **First DSG Payments to LA**  Based on 2021-22 allocations including:   * Academies recoupment (DSG allocations updated termly for in-year academy conversions) * Further Education high needs place funding deductions * and other adjustments. |