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| B&NES-PC-Spot**People and Communities Department** | 9 |
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**SCHOOLS FORUM**

**Primary Clusters/School to School Support**

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| **Lead Officer** | **Mike Bowden** |
| **Contact details** | Mike\_bowden@bathnes.gov.uk |
| **Forum asked to decide / steer / be informed** | **For Information ahead of 2015/16 budget** |
| **Time Needed** | **10 mins** |

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1. **Background**
	1. Extensive work has been done with primary schools and primary council to develop an exciting new collaborative model of school-led improvement, and this request to Schools Forum
	2. This evolving model was shared with all schools in June via the Director’s meeting with Heads and Chairs of Governors. The proposed model is intended to come into place later this term and to be fully operation by the spring. Terms of Reference are being finalised.
	3. The model is predicated on the establishment of a ‘Strategic Forum’ comprising headteacher representatives and key partners, such as the LA, The Partnership Teaching School, Diocese and National and Local Leaders of Education.
	4. This Forum would co-ordinate the assessment of priorities for support and challenge, and ensure that a coherent and targeted offer of school improvement activity is available to each school in need of support – either through direct school to school support or with direct involvement of one or more of the key partners providing or brokering support.
	5. The Strategic Forum would be accountable to an ‘Educational Excellence Board’ whose membership is all Primary Headteachers.
	6. The headteacher representatives on the Strategic Forum would be drawn from collaborative clusters of schools which collectively cover all primary schools in Bath & North East Somerset.
2. **Resourcing**
	1. In order to build capacity and momentum so that the new model of operation has the best chance of success it is recommended that Schools Forum agree to some ‘one-off’ pump priming funding.
	2. The funding will be split into two parts. One will allow each Cluster to have some temporary leadership capacity freed up from within one of the schools in the Cluster. Each cluster will be provided with £8,000 to support the work of the Strategic Forum from within the schools that make up the cluster. This sum is based on the cost of release for one day per week, of one head teacher in each cluster.
	3. The second part will allow backfill for attendance at the Strategic Forum, which need approx. 11 Heads to attend on 6 occasions per year.
	4. The Role Description for these posts will be drawn up and agreed by the Primary Council Working Group that has been drawing up the proposals for the new model and whose membership includes Anne Bull, David Gregory and LA officers.

Total Resource requirements

Direct Strategic Forum costs £7,000

Total cost per Cluster £8,000

Total cost overall £39,000

1. **Recommendation**
	1. Schools Forum are recommended to agree the amount of £39,000 from within the Dedicated Schools Grant carry forward