

Audit Ref	What? (as per Devon Audit Partnership report)	Who?	Task Number	Task	By When	Success Measures	Status	Priority	Comments
1.1.1	Terms of reference should be completed in order to define the purpose and structure of the Torbay Schools Forum. It should contain clear and specific information on how the forum is organised and what they are trying to achieve.	RW	1	Re-name the document to "Standing Orders and Terms of Reference" and review to include all items listed are included.	Mar-18	Terms of Reference and Standing Orders define the purpose and structure of the School Forum and enables members to know how it is organised and the overall aim.		High	Terms of References have been updated.
1.2.1	Forum members should be proactive in raising the profile of issues from their represented group within the forum meetings. Discussions regarding any issues/questions etc. from their represented group should be raised at the forum meetings and recorded in the minutes for review. To ensure responsibilities and processes for communication with represented groups are clear they should be set out in Terms of Reference.	RW/MF	2	Ensure the review of the terms of Reference takes into consideration the recommendations that a members responsibility will be to seek the views of their group. Ensure that the minutes reflect the detailed discussions conducted at the meeting.	Mar-18	School Forum should be aware of the views of stakeholders through their representatives at Forum. The questions and issues raised by members will be accurately minuted. The role of Forum Members will be understood through the inclusion of responsibilities through the Terms of Reference and Standing Orders document.		High	Terms of Refence have been updated to include the roles and responsibilities of Forum Members to consult with their represented group. Minutes are becoming increasingly detailed. This needs to be monitored over time.
1.3.1	The meeting minutes should clearly record the level of challenge and discussion of each of the agenda items. They should provide a sense of the discussions held and the options presented at the meeting to non-attendees and then clearly record the conclusions and action agreed in relation to each of the agenda items.	MF	3	Ensure that minutes provide more detailed summaries of points raised in discussions leading to a decision.	Jan-18	Minutes accurately reflect the full discussion that has taken place at the Forum.		High	Minutes of the forum held in January 18 demonstrated greater detail. This needs to be monitored over time.
1.4.1	Clear votes should be taken in relation to recommendations and decisions. To ensure clarity in the voting process it is important to document the procedures for making decisions. There is the opportunity or include these as part of the Forum Terms of Reference.	RH/MF	4	Ensure voting procedures remain in the revised standing orders and Terms of Reference. Use voting more often and record outcomes in minutes.	Jan-18	Voting is used to take forward recommendations and decisions for all relevant matters. Standing Orders include voting procedures.		High	Voting continues to be used at Forum Meetings and the group need to challenge and review if this is being used as frequently as needed.
1.5.1	Due to a significant increase on a forecast overspend an urgent/unscheduled meeting should have been called by Schools Forum. Leaving the discussions until the June meeting has meant that there was insufficient time for the Forum to make a decision, and a working group had to set up to manage and make decisions required on the overspend. In addition, due to the known overspend issue that needed to be discussed, and as an urgent meeting had not been scheduled, extra time should have been allocated to this meeting and advanced notice given to ensure that all members of the forum could attend the entire meeting.	RW/RH	5	The Local Authority to notify the Chair in the circumstances of significant and unexpected events. Chair to consider email discussion or an extra meeting. Indicate anticipated length of the meeting on the agenda.	As needed	Extrodinary meetings and e-mails will be used to cascade information between meetings where appropriate.		High	Recommendations have been put in place, an exceptional meeting was called at the start of October.
1.6.1	It is recommended that the more long term budget projections are developed and requested from the LA for monitoring by the Forum. This will enable the Forum to scrutinise future budgets and identify savings in the long term, therefore avoiding having to make immediate budget decisions as is currently required.	RW/ members of the Working Party.	6	The Forum is calling together a working party to develop and monitor a Recovery Plan for costs associated with High Needs Pupils.	Apr-18	Longer term budget forecasting are in place and can used by the Higher Needs Recovery Group.		High	Trajectory work has started to be conducted by the LA and will form part of the agenda for the Higher Needs Recovery Group.

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1.7.1	The Forum members should be communicating the budget pressures with the educational groups they are representing and reporting any feedback at Forum meetings. By including the Local area, ideas, savings and opportunities can be identified and discussed at Forum meetings, which could contribute to balanced budgets and prepare for the possibility of the hard funding blocks in the future. For example, Forum members have identified that the area of pupil exclusions are well managed within some schools without the need for a pupil placement, which can be very costly. By identifying and sharing areas of good practice the local area community could potentially contribute to the better management of budgets within the individual funding blocks.	RW/ members of the Working Party.	7	The Higher needs Recovery Group Terms of Reference will include the identification of good practice.	Mar-18	School Forum are able to find solutions through the identification and implementation of good practice.		High	Higher Needs Recovery Group identified good practice and value for money examples at a local secondary school. This will continue to be a focus of the group.
1.8.1	Forum members should be reporting back to their represented areas to ensure good open channels of communication are being achieved. The members should report that needs to be achieved, decisions made and the outcomes of the Forum meetings. By involving the educational community it means that they are aware of the budget pressures being faced and potentially how they could contribute to ideas to address any future overspend. The good practice guide includes how the Forum members could consider communicating with the community. It is a requirement that information relating to the schools forum is publicly available.	RW/RH	8	Re-name the document to "Standing Orders and Terms of Reference" and review to include all items listed are included.	Mar-18	Mechanisms for communication ensure that all schools and stakeholders are aware of the work of Forum and the situations that are being addressed.		High	Education Newsletter in place that will be cascaded to Heads, Governors and wider stakeholders. This will include an update from the forum chair. Forum chair is sharing a communication straight after the meeting with all Headteachers.
1.9.1	The Schools Forum area of the Torbay Council website should be made more accessible and clearly signposted for public review. All papers, documentation and information regarding the Forum including its roles and responsibilities and contact details, as required by the practice guide, should be made available. Many local authorities' dedicated Schools Forum websites post key information for members and any other interested parties and can be reviewed for ideas regarding the information included on the Torbay Forum.	RW/MF	9	Local Authority to provide a dedicated School Forum Web page that is accessible and inclusive of all relevant information.	Sep-18	The website will be accessible and used by the school community including governors.		High	Minutes and Agendas have been uploaded and a link sent to where to find the information. Minutes are now sent to all Headteachers & Early Years Providers. Headteachers are also requested to cascade minutes to Governors. The Website is now in the process of being updated to reflect current membership, and to make it more accessible to members of the public.
1.10.1	The Forum should take full advantage of all opportunities to raise the profile of the Schools Forum and encourage the local area to engage with them	RW/RH	10	Arrange for Forum members to receive the "Schools Forum Operation and Good Practice Guide Revised September 2017". Forum to discuss the possible implementation of other opportunities to raise the profile of its work.	Jan-18	Members have a copy fo the School Forum Operation and Good Practice Guide and are acting to seek representation from colleagues.		High	Forum Members received this in January 18