

# The Leicestershire Schools Forum<sup>1</sup> in Operation

## The Schools Forum:

- Makes decisions and provides advice based on a balanced view of the needs of all children and young people in Leicestershire.
- Provides challenge to the Council over aspects of school and early years funding.
- Provides support to the Local Authority in meeting its funding responsibilities for schools – the DfE is moving away from Local Authorities making direct school funding decisions to Local Authorities facilitating national systems and changes.
- Is a body with some decision-making powers on proposals put to it by the Local Authority.
- **Is not** a platform to air or discuss individual school issues.

The requirements of membership is that members:

- Are elected / nominated from specific school phase or stakeholder group.
- Represent the views of their stakeholder group **not** those of individual schools' MATs.
- Are governed by the constitution and the code of practice within it.
- Use informed decision making based on best options for Leicestershire schools and providers as a whole within the constraints of the national funding system.

The Role of the Local Authority is to:

- Present structured expert information produced by professional analysis and evidence.
- Provide guidance and views on national and local trends to inform decision making.
- Develop, guide & support Member knowledge to ensure effective decision making.
- Base information and decisions within the constraints of the national funding system and what is and is not in the power of the Local Authority to change.