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| B&NES-PC-Spot | **7** |

SCHOOLS FORUM

9th December 2014

**Union Facility Time**

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| **Lead Officer** | **Richard Morgan** |
| **Contact details** | Richard\_morgan@bathnes.gov.uk 01225 395220 |
| **Forum asked to decide / steer / be informed** | **To decide on whether the forum can support additional resources for facility time** |
| **Time Needed** | **10 mins** |

**Introduction**

The right to paid time off for trade union duties and activities is protected by legislation. The amount of time a representative is entitled to should be flexible and defined by local circumstances. The work of branch secretaries is enabled by Facilities Time provided through School Funding and widely de-delegated throughout the country. Despite some challenges in the past few years, there is now a broad consensus that Facilities Time provides a service to schools which is both effective and cost-effective.

A letter to Lead Members from the National Employers’ Organisation for School Teachers and the Local Government Association (October 2014) gives a two-page endorsement to the view that Facilities Time provides good value.

When resources were delegated to schools in April 2013 the total funding allocated to schools for facility time amounted to £42,500. This sum was allocated to schools on a lump sum per school basis. In the period prior to delegation the budget had been incorporated with several other budgets and had hidden the fact that the resources were insufficient to meet the allocated time to the unions as a whole. Earlier this year the issue was highlighted by the outturn report to the forum showing a shortfall. Having interrogated the budget and spend patterns it is apparent that the shortfall is approximately £16,000. This figure is shown as a pressure on the budget paper (also on the agenda)

If approved the increase in budget will result in the allocation per school increasing from £547 to £755

This sum would be allocated to maintained schools and academies, then de-delegated from maintained schools (pending decision on de delegation) , whilst academies would be invoiced where they have decided to participate in the collective arrangement