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# NOTICE OF MEETING

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## SCHOOLS FORUM

WEDNESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 5.00 PM

## CONFERENCE ROOM A - CIVIC OFFICES

Telephone enquiries to Jane Di Dino 023 9283 4060

Email: [jane.didino@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:jane.didino@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

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### Membership

#### Schools Members

One head teacher representative - nursery phase  
Three head teacher representatives - primary phase  
Three head teacher representatives - secondary phase  
One head teacher representative - special phase  
Two academy representatives  
Eight governors

#### Non School Members

Three Councillors from each political party  
One representative from the following organisations:  
The Anglican Diocese  
The Roman Catholic Diocese  
The 16-19 Partnership  
The Early Years providers (from the private, voluntary and independent sector)

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(NB This agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting).

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk)

## AGENDA

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest

- 3 **Membership**
- 4 **Minutes and Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting Held on 15 January.** (Pages 1 - 6)
- 5 **Two-Year Old Funding - update** (Pages 7 - 12)

Purpose

This report updates Schools Forum on the use of the new funding stream for 2 year olds, contained within the Dedicated Schools Grant, and the proposals for 2014-15.

Recommendations

**It is recommended that the Schools Forum:**

- a. **Note the successful progress within the report in respect of the increase in 2 year old place provision.**
- b. **Agree the budget allocation in 2014-15 of 2,910,800 for 2 year old places and £359,600 for related trajectory funding.**
- c. **Agree that £79,000 is continued to be held centrally to provide resources to target settings with regard to capacity and quality improvement**
- d. **Agree that any underspend in the Trajectory funding in 2013-14 is carried forward and allocated to the Trajectory budget in 2014-15 to support the continued investment in the market growth and infrastructure**

- 6 **Budget 2014 - 2015** (Pages 13 - 22)

Purpose

Under the 'School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013, the local authority must not later than 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014:

- a. **Make an initial determination of their school budget; and**
- b. **Give notice of that determination to the governing bodies of the schools they maintain.**

The purpose of this report is therefore to inform Schools Forum of the initial determination of the schools budget for 2014-15 and to seek the necessary approvals required.

Recommendations

**It is recommended that Schools Forum:**

**Approves the determination of the schools budget at Appendix 1, together with the supporting explanations contained within this report.**

- a. **Approves the indicative Element 3 Top-up rates for the Special Schools as set out in Appendix 2 and agree that officers continue to finalise these with the Special Schools.**
- b. **Agrees the Element 3 Top-up rates for Resourced Units and Alternative Provisions settings set out at Appendix 2.**
- c. **Agrees to the allocation in 2014-15 of the 'exceptional circumstances' funding as set out in paragraphs 7.7 to 7.9.**

- d. **Agree that any under-spends on the de-delegated budgets at the end of 2013-14, will be carried forward to be used for the same purposes in 2014-15.**
- e. **Agree that any carry-forward balances from 2013-14 (other than in those referred to in 'e' above, and the 2 Year Old Trajectory in the separate agenda item) be used to assist with the continued introduction of the funding reform changes and fund any potential financial pressures arising during 2014-15.**
- f. **Note the change in Growth Fund criteria to meet the requirements of the Education Funding Agency in section 10.**

**7 School Balance Control Mechanism and Raising Educational Standards in Portsmouth (Pages 23 - 34)**

Purpose

A report was presented to Schools Forum on 17 July 2013 advising on the level of schools revenue and capital balances as at 31 March 2013 and their planned use. A further report on those schools with the largest uncommitted revenue balances was presented to Schools Forum in December 2013.

This report considers the options available in respect of re-instating the school balances claw-back mechanism, as requested by Members at the December meeting. In addition, this report also considers the options as part of the raising educational standards agenda in Portsmouth.

Recommendations

**It is recommended that Schools Forum:**

- a. **Considers and approves one of the following options, subject to consultation with maintained schools:**
  - i. **To implement a new "balance control mechanism" to clawback excessive balances as set out in Appendices 2 and 3; or**
  - ii. **To continue to operate without a "balance control mechanism", and implement the proposals set out in paragraphs 6.14 to 6.16 and Appendix 3.**
- b. **Endorse a further report to be presented to Schools Forum considering the options available for utilising school balances to support initiatives to raise educational standards in Portsmouth.**

**8 Any Other Business**