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## SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held on Wednesday, 24 February 2016 at 4.30pm in the Guildhall, Portsmouth

### Present

David Jeapes, Head Teacher	Secondary (in the Chair)
Gareth Hughes, Head Teacher	Secondary
Krishna Purbhoo, Head Teacher	Special
Karen Stocks, Head Teacher	Nursery
Jackie Collins, Head Teacher	Primary
Fiona Calderbank, Head Teacher	Academies - Secondary
Bruce Marr, Governor	Secondary
Steve Sheehan, Governor	Primary
Clive Good, Governor	Primary
Abbie Eales	Anglican Diocese
Steve Frampton	16-19 Representative
Carol Damper	Early Years' Providers
Councillor John Ferrett	Labour Party
Councillor Colin Galloway	UKIP

### 8. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from: Alison Beane, Steve Labeledz, Lee Miller, Ruth Nabholz-Duncan, Sarah Sadler, Councillor Lynne Stagg and Sue Wilson.

### 9. Declarations of Interest

Clive Good declared a non-prejudicial interest; he is a governor at Redwood Park School.

### 10. Membership Changes.

Richard Webb explained that the tenures of the following members were coming to an end and that he would be contacting the relevant groups to seek new appointment of representatives:

- Alison Beane
- Margaret Beel
- Bruce Marr
- Steve Frampton

### 11. Minutes and Matters Arising From the Previous Meeting Held on 20 January 2016.

#### DECISION

The Schools Forum agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2016.

#### Matters Arising.

Page 3 - the report on high needs was being considered at this meeting.

Page 4 - the criteria to enable the shortfall in de-delegated funding for the administration of free school meals to be charged to the school-specific contingency fund in 2016-17 will be agreed at the July meeting.

**12. Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Monitoring Report for the Third Quarter 2015/ 16.**

Alison Egerton, Group Accountant introduced the report.

**DECISION**

**The Schools Forum noted the forecast year-end budget position as at the end of quarter 3, for the Dedicated Schools Grant, together with the associated explanations, as detailed in section 4 of the report.**

**13. Supply of School Places and Special School Infrastructure.**

Mike Stoneman, Acting Deputy Director of Children's Services - Education introduced the report and in response to questions clarified the following points:

- A surplus of approximately 2-3% has been achieved in the primary phase across the city.
- The tables in the report show forecasts for the next two years. Officers have drawn up forecasts that go beyond this for the next five years.
- The shortfall for Year 4 places is being monitored. Last year, primary and junior schools were asked to accept one extra pupil per class.
- Academies could decline to expand but to date have not done so, with the exception of Charter Academy where an option has been identified but is under review and is dependent on the future of the school sixth form.
- A PSPB1 bid was made for 900 places at King Richard School. This figure was based on the significant amount of surplus that was in the secondary school system at the time. Our latest forecasts show that a 900 capacity school would be insufficient and an agreement has now been reached with the EFA and King Richard School Trust to increase the capacity to 1000.
- Mayfield, Arundel Court and Beacon View are benefiting from funding from the government's Priority School Building Programme (PSBP) which assists schools in the worst conditions.
- The cost for a new secondary school has been estimated at £20m based on national averages.
- The local authority is not responsible for further education places. There is currently reasonable capacity in this sector in the Portsmouth travel to learn area.
- The costs provided in the report are estimates.
- It is anticipated that Trafalgar School will be the secondary school that will meet the majority of the future demand for school places generated by the Tipner developments.
- The focus is on remodelling Cliffdale and Redwood Park so they can accept more complex cohorts of pupils.
- It is not known how quickly the Secretary of State will make a decision.
- This could be implemented as a phased development.
- Schools Forum members could be invited onto the Project Board to monitor implementation.

Julia Katherine, Inclusion Commissioning Manager informed members that:

- Portsmouth currently has a higher percentage of children with statements or education health and care plans placed in special schools than the national average.
- Priority 5 of The Children's Trust strategy is to improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and their families. The first of the 3 themes identified within Priority 5 is to create a more inclusive culture within the city. This relates to the need for schools to be more inclusive. Some mainstream secondary schools are already educating children with special needs who in the past might have attended a special school. Equally, the cohort of children being placed at Redwood Park school now have increasingly complex needs..
- It is anticipated that a small number of pupils will still need to go out of the city for very specialist provision.
- Work will need to be carried out to improve accessibility of all schools.

Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services reminded members that this project would result in recurrent savings and therefore more money would be available in the DSG. It is important that pupils be fairly distributed among schools, but it also depends on parents' choices, available spaces and catchment areas. Therefore maybe it would be useful to carefully word the message to parents to manage their expectations.

During the discussion, members raised the following points:

- Schools can choose to expand their sixth forms rather than their intake over the whole school.
- It is encouraging by the work that the LA has carried out with schools.
- The Regional Schools Commissioner has ruled that where there are fewer than 240 pupils in a school sixth form, the school must submit a business case.
- It members endorse the allocation; the contingency fund would reduce accordingly.
- Ensuring that pupils do not have to travel out of the city for education is important to improve their outcomes.
- It was suggested that several members of the Schools Forum form a sub-group to monitor the implementation of this project and to ensure that the outcomes of pupils are prioritised.
- The project is expected to take two to three years to implement.
- It is important that all secondary mainstream schools commit to being as inclusive as possible.
- It was acknowledged that this would require a systems change that is future-proofed.

The Chair noted that if the submission was endorsed, school representatives would need to explain the implications to their phases.

It was agreed that raining would be needed for secondary school staff. The council commissions outreach support from Portsmouth Special Education Needs Partnership to deliver this support.

## DECISIONS

### The Schools Forum:

1. Noted the current position for both primary and secondary school places and the substantial progress made in terms of the primary sufficiency programme and the plans in place or implementing the secondary sufficiency programme.
2. Endorsed the submission to the Education Funding Agency of the proposal to allocate £2m from the Dedicated Schools Grant carry-forward to support the remodelling of the Special Schools to support children with more complex needs.  
*(One abstention. None against).*

### Actions.

- 1) Members who wish to join the Project Board were asked to contact Richard Webb.
- 2) A report on the fair distribution of pupils and future-proofing will be brought to a future meeting.

### 14. **Any Other Business.**

Members will be sent declarations of interests forms to complete.

The next meeting will be held on 13 July 2016.

The meeting concluded at 6pm.

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David Jeapes  
Chair