

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held on Wednesday, 12 July 2017 at 4:30pm in the Civic Offices.

Present

Jackie Collins	Head Teacher	Primary
Sue Wilson	Head Teacher	Primary
David Jeapes, Chair	Head Teacher	Secondary
Gareth Hughes	Head Teacher	Secondary
Ian Hunkin	Head Teacher	Special
Dave Jones	Head Teacher	Primary
Karen Stocks	Academy	Primary
Alison Beane	Academy	Special
Steve Labeledz	Academy	Secondary
Clive Good	Governor	Primary
Steve Sheehan	Governor	Primary
Councillor Suzy Horton	Councillor	Liberal Democrats
Kara Jewell		Early Years' Representative

15. Apologies

Apologies were received from Fiona Calderbank, Councillor Colin Galloway, Bruce Marr, Councillor Lynne Stagg (Councillor Suzy Horton deputising), Stella Mbubagbu and Councillor Neill Young.

16. Declarations of Interests

Ian Hunkin declared a non-prejudicial interest in item 11 as he is the Head of Harbour School.

17. Membership Changes.

Richard Webb, Finance Manager informed members of the following changes:

Leavers

Joy Waeland - Primary Academy
Carole Damper - Early Years Representative
Karen Stocks - Maintained Nursery HT (school converted to Academy)
Ruth Nabholz-Duncan - Maintained Nursery Governor (Nursery closed)
Sarah Sadler - Maintained Primary HT (school converted to Academy)
Councillor Hockaday - Conservative Representative (now Cabinet Member)

Joiners

Kara Jewell - Early Years Representative
Karen Stocks - Primary Academy Representative
Dave Jones - Primary Head Teacher
Councillor Neill Young - Conservative Party representative

Vacancies:

Labour Party Representative
1 Academy Secondary Representative
Anglican Diocese Representative
RC Diocese Representative
1 Maintained Nursery HT
1 Maintained Nursery Governor
1 Special Governor

18. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair.

Richard Webb, Finance Manager explained that as the positions of Chair and Vice Chair had come to the end of their tenures he had contacted all members to request nominations. Other than David Jeapes and Steve Sheehan who had indicated that they were happy to continue in these roles; no further nominations were received.

David Jeapes left the meeting whilst voting for the position of Chair took place.

DECISION

The Schools Forum appointed David Jeapes as Chair.

Steve Sheehan left the meeting whilst voting for the position of Vice Chair took place.

DECISION

The Schools Forum appointed Steve Sheehan as Vice Chair.

19. Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting held on 15 February 2017.

DECISION

The Schools Forum agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2017.

Matters Arising.

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Correction noted to item 10. Only 1 school had submitted a response and one was still outstanding. This matter is addressed in agenda item 9 of this meeting.

Page 2 Action b/fwd

Julia Katherine will present an update on the pressures, developments and changes to High Needs in October.

Early years funding arrangements

Anthony Harper informed members that the Cabinet Member for Education had made a representation to the Department for Education on 27 February to draw their attention to the concerns of some providers that the move to 30 funded hours, at the funding level proposed nationally, may reduce

opportunities for cross subsidy which have benefitted providers in the past; and the need to keep under review the financial viability of sufficient provision to meet the needs of the city.

The Cabinet Member also explored other opportunities to support providers but a cost-neutral solution had not been found.

In response to questions, Mr Harper explained that no significant issues were expected regarding provision across the city. As demand is expected to be high in Milton, Eastney and Craneswater, work will be done to extend provision.

Action

An update will be provided to the forum at the Schools Forum meeting in September.

20. Schools Forum Constitution.

Richard Webb introduced the report and added that he had been advised that the number of groups on the council has increased from four to five. He asked members whether they wished to increase the 'Non-Schools' membership by one to include a representative of the new 'independent group'.

In response to questions, he clarified the following points

- The proposed membership change would be compliant with statutory requirements.
- If the number of Early Years representatives were increased as well, this would increase the Non-School Membership above the permitted ratio when compared to School and Academy Members.
- When seeking new academy representatives all Head Teachers are contacted, requesting representative from the 'trust proprietors' not just Head Teacher representatives.

The forum noted the importance of having representatives from a broad range of academy trusts.

DECISION

The Schools Forum:

- **Approved the revised constitution attached as Appendix 1 to take effect from 13 July 2017, with the amendment to increase the Councillors by 1 to 5 and that the membership composition within the constitution be amended as follows:**
 - 'Councillors - a non-executive representative from each political group - 5'**
- **Noted that with the increasing number of Academies within the city, the constitution will be reviewed at least annually to ensure appropriate representation on the forum.**

21. Scheme for Financing Schools.

Alison Egerton, Group Accountant introduced the report and in response to questions, the following points were clarified:

- The DfE does permit the council to charge schools for the costs of appeals. However as highlighted at para 4.3, the council has kept the cost of appeals within the total cost of delivering the statutory duty of managing the transfer of groups and would not charge schools for the cost of appeals under the current arrangements.
- The team has responded to or are in the process of responding to everyone who raised questions during the consultation.

DECISION

Approved the revised Scheme for Financing Schools attached at appendix 1, to come into force on 1 August 2017.

(Schools Members representing maintained schools only)

22. 2016-17 Dedicated Schools Grant Outturn Report and Revised Budget 2017-18.

Matt Green, Senior Accountant introduced the report and in response to questions from members he and Richard Webb explained that the pressure of post 16 and out of city placements is growing.

Alison Beane and Gareth Hughes raised some queries on the explanations relating to the High Needs areas of the budget. The Chair suggested that in order to address these points, that Alison and Gareth send their specific questions to Richard Webb so that they can be investigated and responded to fully and brought back to the next meeting.

Action

Alison Beane and Gareth Hughes to send their questions to Richard Webb so that they can be investigated and responded to fully and brought back to the next meeting.

DECISION

The Schools Forum

1. **Deferred a decision to note the year-end outturn budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at the end of March 2017 and the variance explanations contained within this report.**
2. **Endorsed the revised DSG budget for 2017-18 as set out in appendix 1.**

23. Maintained school balances as at 31 March 2017.

Alison Egerton introduced the report and in response to questions she and Richard Webb reminded members that the Forum had previously decided to continue without a "balance control mechanism" (i.e. a clawback system).

The Chair thanked the team for their proactive work and noted that generally schools had been engaging.

Members discussed the possible reasons for schools holding high balances and their role in monitoring schools that hold high balances for several consecutive years.

Richard Webb explained that the whilst the team continue to monitor the balances of all schools, the growing area of focus and demand for support

from schools, is from those with low or reducing balances to ensure they develop robust and sustainable deficit recovery plans.

DECISION

The Schools Forum noted the level of maintained schools' revenue balances and capital balances as at 31 March 2017 as shown in appendices 2 & 3 and the monitoring action taken by the council.

24. 2017- 18 Funding formula benchmarking.

Richard Webb presented the benchmarking analysis which had been annotated to show on each of the graphs for both 2016-17 and 2017-18 the funding formula rates for Portsmouth

Members discussed the analysis as well the impact of the proposed national funding formula. In response to questions, Richard highlighted that for the majority of funding formula factors Portsmouth was broadly in line nationally with its funding rates (as shown by the graphs). One of the main outliers within the analysis was the high level of funding allocated locally through the Prior Attainment factor for secondary schools.

He also reminded members of the report that was presented recently to the Forum on the impact of the proposed National Funding Formula (NFF). The main area of difference was in how the proposed NFF allocated funding through the deprivation factors and that this would have an impact on funding at a school level; as we currently allocate locally more funding through highest level of deprivation factors.

Clive Good queried whether the Director of Children Families and Education wrote to the DfE in relation to the proposed national funding formula as previously discussed,

Action

Mike Stoneman to check whether the Director of Children Families and Education Service wrote to the DfE.

DECISION The Schools Forum noted the document.

25. The Harbour school.

Julie Katherine, Head of Inclusion introduced the report and in response to questions, Ian Hunkin explained that

- There had been 16 redundancies; mainly in non-teaching posts.
- The results of the changes would be seen by September.
- By 2018/19 there is expected to be a small surplus in the operating budget.
- The support given by the Local Authority was appreciated.

Members were advised that a further report will come to the Schools Forum in the Autumn; which is expected to seek endorsement to financial support being provided to the school.

On behalf of the forum the Chair congratulated the staff at Harbour School.

DECISION

The Schools Forum noted the significant progress that had been made to address the financial and structural issues at The Harbour School and endorsed the next steps that are now being taken as set out in section 4 of the report.

26. SEND capital funding for special school places

Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children, Families and Education introduced the report and in response to questions explained that:

- Work at Clifffdale Primary would commence shortly and is expected to be completed over the next two years.
- The development of the free school for autism on the site of Redwood Park will be separate to the remodelling of the main school. There may be some sharing of the multi-use games area but otherwise they will be two separate schools serving very different cohorts of children and young people.

DECISION

The Schools Forum noted that:

- a) The project at Clifffdale Primary Academy will be completed in full. This will enable Clifffdale Academy to be fully equipped with sufficient and appropriate provision for primary aged pupils with more complex needs. The completion of the Clifffdale project will also enable modern modular accommodation to move to Redwood Park Academy, providing a medium-term temporary solution addressing the majority of the phase 1 requirements at Redwood Park Academy.
- b) £896,000 of capital funding is to be re-allocated from Redwood Park Academy to Clifffdale Primary in order to provide the necessary funding (of £3.096m) to complete the Clifffdale project and relocate the modular buildings.

27. Future school funding formula changes.

Alison Egerton circulated an information paper to provide members with an update on the work being undertaken in advance of the announcement of the school revenue funding arrangements for 2018-19 and future years. Further updates will be presented to the Forum following any announcement by the DfE.

The meeting concluded at 6:15pm.

Chair