

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held von Thursday, 11 January 2024 at 4.30pm

| Present | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Dave Jones | LA Maintained | Primary Phase |
| Jackie Collins | LA Maintained | Primary Phase |
| Simon Graham | LA Maintained | Secondary Phase |
| Jo Cooper | Academies | Primary Phase |
| Sally Hodgson | Academies | Primary Phase |
| Ruth Worswick | Academies | Primary Phase |
| Sean Preston | Academies | Primary Phase |
| Nys Hardingham | Academies | Secondary Phase |
| Nathan Waites | Academies | Secondary Phase |
| Kara Jewell | Early Years | |
| Chris Caddamy | Post 16 Education | |
| Councillor Suzy Horton | Observer | |

84. Apologies

Apologies were received from Sharon Burt, Jack Jones and Councillor Leo Madden.

85. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest are outstanding from Councillors Tom Coles and Chris Dike.

86. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 December 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December be agreed as a correct record subject to the following correction:

There is one secondary mainstream representative on the forum in accordance with the constitution. That member did not agree with the recommendation to approve the de-delegation of funding to support the Education Functions.

87. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

88. Membership Update.

After the February meeting, the following three tenures will come to an end:

- Jackie Collins, Head Teacher Primary Maintained Schools.
- Simon Graham, Head Teacher, Secondary Maintained Schools

- Nys Hardingham, Head Teacher, Secondary Academies.

89. School Funding Arrangements 2024-25

Angela Mann, Finance Manager introduced the report.

Dave Jones, the Chair left the meeting due to technical issues and Nathan Waites, the Vice Chair took over his duties.

In response to a question, Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director for Education explained that the council requires support from the Schools Forum for the de-delegation process. As this was not given, a disapplication request had been submitted to the Secretary of State (SoS).

Simon Graham stated that the local authority (LA) had informed secondary schools aware that it was going to appeal to the SoS. The schools liaised with the LA to ensure that they have copies of the information that is going to be submitted and asked for clarity regarding how that money going to two schools means that the LA cannot carry out its statutory functions, particularly as these also apply to other non-local authority schools. He did not see the logic in doing that, but it is for the SoS to decide. The secondary schools decided to also write to the SoS.

Angela Mann informed the forum that the Department for Education's online template will not allow for separate decisions for primary and secondary schools to be submitted. The council has informed the DfE of this issue and requested an urgent response.

DECISIONS

The Schools Forum:

- 1. Endorsed the proposed changes to the mainstream schools' revenue funding arrangements as set out in Section 5 and Appendix.**
- 2. Endorsed the school revenue funding pro-forma at Appendix 3 for submission to the ESFA on 22 January 2024.**
- 3. Endorsed the use of the carry forward on the Schools Specific Contingency for the same purpose in 2024-25 as set out in Section 6.**
- 4. Endorsed the budget to be held centrally for the payment of central licences negotiated nationally for all schools by the Secretary of State.**
- 5. Approved the use of the 2023-24 underspend on the Growth Fund for use for the same purpose in 2024-25.**
- 6. Approved the Growth Fund and the proposed increase to the Lump Sum payments for primary and secondary schools, specifically: • Primary - £138,300 • Secondary - £173,130.**
- 7. Approved the budgets to be held centrally specifically as set out in Appendix 1:**
 - Schools Forum**
 - Admissions**
 - Duties retained by the local authority for all schools**
 - Centrally employed Teachers' pay and pensions grants.**

8. **Endorsed the place numbers for Special Schools, Inclusion Centres and Alternative Provision Settings as set out in Section 9 and Appendix 4.**

Primary Maintained Schools Forum members approved the de-delegated unit values in relation to the School Improvement, Monitoring and Brokerage Grant of £10.42 for each Primary pupil.

The meeting concluded at 4:55pm

Dave Jones
Chair