

## Schools Forum

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### MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2021 AT ONLINE MEETING.

#### **Present:**

Neil Baker (Chairman), Aileen Bates, Andy Bridewell, Rebecca Carson, Michele Chilcott, Sam Churchill, John Hawkins, Cllr Ross Henning, Mel Jacob, Lisa Percy (Vice-Chair), John Proctor, Giles Pugh, Graham Shore, Trudy Srawley, Ian Tucker, David Whewell, Catriona Williamson and Lynn Yendle

#### **Also Present:**

Jane Davies (Portfolio Holder, Education and SEND), Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager), Libby Johnstone (Democratic Governance Manager), Cate Mullen (Head of Inclusion & SEND), Lisa Pullin (Democratic Services Officer), Bea Seggari (Schools Support Accountant), Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) and Lucy Townsend (Director of Children's Services) for part of meeting

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#### 12 **Apologies and Changes of Membership**

Apologies were received from Georgina Keily-Theobald (Maintained Special School Representant/Co-Chair of WASSH), Nigel Roper (WASSH - Maintained Secondary Representative), Helean Hughes (Director – Education & Skills), and Cllr Laura Mayes (Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills).

#### **Membership changes**

Mark Cawley Early Years/PVI representative has resigned from Schools Forum as he has now sold his nursery business and also resigned from his position on the Early Years Reference Group. Officers would liaise with the Early Years Reference Group to find a replacement representative.

#### 13 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 January 2021 were approved.

#### **Resolved:**

**That the Chairman approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Schools forum held on 21 January 2021.**

#### 14 **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair thanked Mark Cawley for his service and contributions to the Forum.

15 **Declaration of Interests**

There were no interests declared.

16 **Public Participation**

No questions or statements had been received prior to the meeting.

17 **Updates from Working Groups**

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the meeting of the School Funding and SEN working group held on 1 March 2021.

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the meeting of the Early Years Reference Group meeting held on 23 February 2021.

There were no questions raised from the notes of these meetings.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the minutes of the joint meeting of the School Funding and SEN working group held on 1 March 2021 and the Early Years Reference group meeting held on 23 February 2021.**

18 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2020/21**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the budget monitoring report as at 31 January 2021 that was circulated with the Agenda. Marie highlighted the following:

- There was no significant change in the forecast since the last report up to December 2020;
- The forecast overspend was £9.032 million against the overall dedicated schools' grant budget. The main driver for the forecast variance was the ongoing pressures of the high needs block;
- There was a small underspend forecast for the Early Years budget of £326K. For the spring 2021 term, the Government's expectation was that settings would remain open whilst the schools were closed, and they would only be paid for children attending settings;
- Due to the uncertainty, no variance is forecast on the budgets for the free entitlement for 15- and 30-hours childcare for 2,3 and 4-year-old. There were small underspends, but it was anticipated that the DfE's post financial year adjustment would recover this in the summer;
- COMF grant funding of £1 million had been received by the Local Authority to support, facilitate and aid containment of the virus specifically for early years. The deadline for applications to this funding

is 22<sup>nd</sup> March when payments would be assessed and assuming affordable up to the £1 million would be paid. A report would be presented to the June meeting of the Forum to update on how this grant was spent;

- The forecast underspend on the Schools budget largely related to the school's growth fund which currently shows an underspend of £2.273 million and was helping to offset the overall pressure on the DSG;
- High Needs budgets were projected to overspend by £11.634 million. The major driver of the increased cost was volume. If the current increase in EHCPs continues at this rate, 4056 EHCP's are anticipated for the end of the year which was a 10.2% increase. The number of EHCPs being requested has slowed slightly which could be due to reduced face to face contact with pupils due to the Covid pandemic;
- The DSG deficit reserve brought forward of £11.350 million was reduced by the positive early years block adjustment of £0.539 million. The forecast overspend would take the reserve into a deficit position of £19.843 million which the Local Authority is having to cashflow; and
- The DSG Management Plan was approved by Schools Forum on 19 January and by Full Council on 23 February 2021.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the budget monitoring position at the end of January 2021.**

19 **Update on the work of the High Needs Block Recovery Group**

Cate Mullen (Head of Inclusion & SEND) gave an overview on the work of the HNB Recovery Group. There were a number of initiatives as part of the recovery work and with Covid and staffing changes this had meant that some deadlines had had to be amended and with the delays that would in turn mean that some of savings would also be delayed.

*Dyslexia friendly schools* – This initiative was on track although the shape of the work had changed as schools were closed to many pupils through the last year. The main priority was to support schools to meet the needs of their children with dyslexia so that they were able to receive their education in their own schools and not have to go to independent providers.

*Inclusion and school effectiveness project* – Covid had meant that engagement for much of the work had been paused. The Ordinarily Available provision (OAP) work was starting to gain momentum.

*Enhanced Learning Provision and Resource Bases* – an update would be provided later at this meeting.

*SEND Assessment and EHCP* – The work in relation to EHCNA panel process and pathway had commenced in February 2021 as staffing resource for 2 days per week had been allocated which had enabled this to take off.

*Independent Special School Review* – Lisa Fryer had been reviewing the learners placed in Independent Special School provision, why they were placed in those settings and to consider if they were value for money. Lisa was working to identify cost savings to be made and where young people could be brought back into Wiltshire provision at their key points of transition.

*Post 16 Transition* – Resource was being identified for this work to ensure that the right Officers were in place to work with the SEND, Education Teams, Adult Services and partners to ensure smooth transitions were in place. FACT funding was in place to enable the employment of SEND lead workers.

*SEND Alternative Provision Project* – This was positive and now on track. The new approved provider list was well used by schools already.

*Early intervention project* – HELM had been in place since September 2020 with meetings across the Wiltshire Council area. Health, early years and other relevant agencies those who have identified that intervention was required to help with transitions at school. Positive feedback following a HELM review was received.

A secondary school governor representative asked if the RAG ratings of the projects related to quality of progression and if the anticipated savings were being achieved. Cate Mullen suggested that the High Needs Recovery Block plan be circulated with the minutes of the meeting which would give more detailed information on the savings and when they were on course to be delivered. – *Admin note* – *At the time of publishing these draft minutes the refreshed High Needs Block plan was not available to be released and would be shared with Schools Forum members as soon as it was available.*

Cate Mullen (Head of Inclusion & SEND) gave an update on the Resource Base/Enhanced Learning Provision Strategy highlighting the following:

- Wiltshire has 16 RBs and they are designated as either communication and interaction or complex needs bases and there is one RB for those with hearing impairments and one for physical impairments;
- All non-selective secondary schools have an ELP (27 schools) and learners required an EHCP in order to access a place at a RB or ELP;
- How RBs and ELPs are funded based on 2021/22 values;
- The links to the priorities in the SEND and Inclusion Strategy;
- Strand 1 of the work would be unpicking what the provision is intended to do/be, how it is costed and configured and the need it is fulfilling on behalf of the LA. They would also be revisiting and reviewing the Service

Level Agreements for RBs and ELPs. Matt Sambrook was leading on that work and it was hoped to have an outcome by the beginning of the next academic year;

- Strand 2 – would be looking at the operational and pedagogical elements including the quality of the curriculum offer and the quality assurance associated with the work of the RBs and ELPs. A small working group had been set up to work through this, they had met once, and more meetings were planned with the aim to have the plan in place by June 2021; and
- Strand 3 – This was work on an operational level to see how those working in ELPs meet the needs of the learners we are asking them to support. A plan was developed from February half term to arrange support and consultation for ELP practitioners via monthly virtual meetings to build up an enhanced support model and a community of practice between them. enable helps feel supported with their practice.

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) gave an update on the f40 submission to the Government review on SEND as follows:

- F40 believes that the current SEND system is broken and needs major change and investment in order to meet growing demand and assist the most vulnerable children in our country, many of whom have very complex, challenging needs that require a variety of additional support;
- The suggested steps to be taken are
  - Increase SEND budget by £2.4bn between now and 2023 and fund current deficits
  - Provide clarity and guidance on how notional SEND funding is spent by schools
  - Reduce demand for EHC plans
  - Place greater emphasis on early intervention
  - Introduce expected levels of SEND support in Mainstream schools
  - Strengthen and amend the Code of Practice and Tribunal system
  - Ensure every teacher receives training in SEND and managing challenging behaviour.

A Councillor representative asked if a reduced demand for EHCP's and early intervention was linked with hopefully early intervention taking place so that an EHCP was not needed. Marie Taylor responded that some early intervention work has proved this but that it was difficult to fund early intervention projects from an already overspending HNB which is why the local authority has chosen to fund recovery programmes via FACT funding to help ease this pressure on the high needs block.

- F40 had issued questionnaire responses in January 2021 and received responses from 77 out of 140 local authorities. 69 out of those 77 local

authorities are forecasting a deficit for 2020/21 and most have a rising deficit year on year;

- Wiltshire is statistical neighbours with 11 other authorities and in the lower deficit range of 49 LA's only 2 of this are Wiltshire's statistical neighbours; - there could be some learning from these as they have improved their deficits; and
- Out of the 28 LA's that are in the higher deficit range, 9 (from a total of 11) of those are Wiltshire's statistical neighbours with 4 in a better position and 4 in a worse position. There could be learning from those in a better position.

**Resolved:**

**1. That Schools Forum note the following updates**

- i) High Needs Block Recovery Working Group**
- ii) Resources Bases and Enhanced Learning Provision**
- iii) F40's submission to the Government review on SEND**

**2. That the financial savings highlighted within the High Needs Block Recovery plan be shared with Schools Forum within the minutes of the meeting. See admin note above in relation to this.**

**20 DfE Consultation Update - HNB Funding**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the report which sought to present the DfE consultation on the review of NFF for allocations of high needs funding to local authorities: changes for 2022-23 which was launched on 10 February to run until 24 March 2021. Marie highlighted the following:

- This was a previously unannounced consultation asking 5 questions with a finance focus being issued prior to the SEN review which had been promised for later this year;

*Proposal 1. The current formula has 50% lump sum comprising LA planned spend in 2017/18. The first proposal is to use actual 2017/18 expenditure opposed to 2017/18 budget as a baseline to allocate the historical element. Proposed 2022/23 onwards.*

- This proposal would mean a reduction in funding of £1.2 million for Wiltshire potentially, for one year only. Having a formula that changes just for one year would have a nasty impact on Wiltshire, however 95 local authorities would gain under this proposal, so this was of concern. For Wiltshire the 2017/18 actual spend was less than planned and there was a big jump from 2016 onwards so this proposal was not something that Wiltshire would support. A response for this had been drafted and it

was hoped that schools would use this for their own responses to support the view.

*Proposal 2. Increase the proportion of actual expenditure in 1 above (the historical lump sum) to 60%*

- This proposal would mean a reduction funding, estimated to be in excess of £1.5 million for one year only. The DfE wrote directly to us after this consultation was issued to inform us that they had made a mistake in the 2017/18 figures and had understated our place values by 17 places. Whilst the true value of the decrease was not known, it would still be significant and again Schools Forum members were encouraged to respond to the consultation to state their strong disagreement to this proposal.

*Proposal 3. Alternative to the historic spend factor (Proposed 2023-24 onwards)*

- The DfE have confirmed they would prefer to replace the historic spend factor with alternative factor(s) longer term that better reflect local issues and are able to be kept up to date but that avoid perverse incentives such as numbers of EHCPs. The DfE say that the earliest alternative factors could be introduced is 2023-24 following the SEN Review.
- Officers agree that moving away from an outdated formula and towards a suite of easy to update drivers to reflect the needs of young people and take into account local variables including rurality would be fair, transparent and a positive move for Wiltshire, however it was not accepted that using numbers of EHCPs is inappropriate and believe it should be a major factor in the new formula. This would be quite contentious to feed back to the DfE but in nationally an assessment for an EHCP is how we assess and support the children's needs. A way to avoid EHCPs being a perverse incentive to funding could be including a cap on average national growth of it as a measure.

*Question 4 - Attainment data as a funding driver – views on pandemic impact (Proposed 2022-23 & 2023-24)*

- For 2022-23 there would be no attainment data due to the disruption to tests and exams in 2020 and this was likely to be repeated for 2021. The DfE are proposing that 2016,2017,2018,2019 and 2019 (2019 used twice) is used for both 2022-23 and 2023-24 years. This was discussed at the School Funding Working Group (SFWG) meeting and it was agreed that a consistent approach is preferable, however it was felt that modelling should be carried out across more options as this approach carries a level of risk as the cohort of young people is so small for some it could be disproportionate.

#### *Question 5 - Effective proxies for SEND & AP in the formula*

- For this factor the DfE currently take into account the local population of C&YP, two health & disability measures (bad health\* & DLA) and two deprivation factors (FSM and local area deprivation measure.)
- The DfE welcome views on how proxy factors can be improved, confirming, numbers of EHCPs are not a suitable measure.
- This was again discussed at the SFWG and it was felt that a wide range of factors should be incorporated, and they should absolutely include numbers of EHCPs or numbers of assessments. Wiltshire also wanted to feedback that their rates had not been uplifted for some time.

Marie highlighted the importance of a high number of responses from Wiltshire bearing in mind that 95 other local authorities would benefit from proposal one. It had been agreed at the SFWG meeting that Neil Baker and Lisa Percy would prepare a joint letter and invite all Headteachers to join in with that response.

A Councillor representative asked if the 95 local authorities mentioned were non rural county local authorities and if there were any other factors? Marie Taylor reported that previously when there were “statements” (before EHCPs) Wiltshire did not have as many as perhaps others in other local authorities and we have been playing catch up since then, However those that got there earlier would reap benefits from this proposal as in 2017 some local authorities were spending more than us. Rurality of authority did not come into it – it would be the level of spend in 2017.

The Chair confirmed that he and Lisa Percy (Vice Chair) had prepared a response based on the views of the Wiltshire Officers and as schools are currently very busy with Covid and children returning they had made it as easy as possible for schools to respond to the consultation. This had been shared with WASSH and PHF to ask the to share with schools and request that they send in individual school responses.

It was confirmed that the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council would also prepare a response based on the Officer views and views of Schools Forum.

#### **Resolved that Schools Forum:**

- 1. Note the DfE consultation and proposed Local Authority responses.**
- 2. Promote the completion of the consultation document within their school communities.**

#### **21 Schools Budget Update 2021-22 - All Blocks**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to his report which sought to outline the key changes resulting from implementing the schools funding formula for 2021-22. Grant highlighted the following:



- The DfE published the 2020-21 financial settlement for schools on 17 December 2020. The settlement included details of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and its individual component blocks of funding;
- The 2018-19 year saw the introduction of the National Funding Formula (NFF). The NFF was initially proposed as a 'soft' formula for the 2018-19 year before becoming a 'hard' formula in 2019-20. Subsequently the DfE confirmed that 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 would also remain as 'soft' years, enabling Schools Forum to make school funding decisions at a local level;
- The Schools Block of funding was set at £317.724 million which is a 'real terms' increase of £10.4m on the 2020-21 funding level;
- There had been an overall increase in the pupil numbers funded within Wiltshire in 2021-22 although this was low with only a growth of 84 pupils;
- For the Wiltshire funding rates for 2021-22 mobility was a new factory to be paid this year at £900 for primary pupils and £1290 for secondary pupils, above a threshold of 6% of pupils being classed as mobile;
- The minimum per pupil funding level had moved over time and for 2021-22 was set at £4,180 primary and £5,415 secondary. These figures also included the Teachers Pay and Pension grants;
- The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for 2021-22 would see all schools receiving an increase of at least 2%. The removal of the cap was a real milestone in ensuring all schools were fully funded using NFF values;
- The total allocated to Wiltshire for growth in the 2021-22 was £1.814 m based upon primary growth numbers of 502.5 and secondary growth numbers of 492.0; and
- Schools Forum had previously agreed to transfer funding from the Schools Block into the High Needs Block as a one-off non-recurrent transfer. A transfer of 0.5% (£1.517m) would take place between the Schools Block and the High Needs Block.

The Salisbury Diocesan representative was pleased to hear that more schools (75 out of 202 primary) would be gaining from the minimum per pupil funding. He thought that this would be more of a gain for primaries with a higher number of pupils and asked if it was correct that smaller schools did not really gain under that methodology. Grant Davis confirmed that this did have a disadvantage effect for small schools in the way that the funding is worked out, in particular as the 'lump sum' was spread over a lower cohort of pupils in smaller schools. However later in the meeting Grant would be sharing details of

the new consultation for small rural schools and that would give an opportunity to look at how small schools should be funded and appropriate ways to do this.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the update on the Schools Budget for 2021-22.**

## 22 **School Admission Appeals**

Libby Johnstone (Democratic Governance Manager) referred to the report which sought to inform Schools Forum of the final arrangements in place for the subsidised charging for admission appeals for all schools. Libby highlighted the following:

- The DfE had changed the legislation regarding appeals as all schools had to be treated equally in relation to the charging for admission appeals;
- Following various options considered, and consultation to schools it was concluded that the preferred solution would be to charge schools directly for appeals at a subsidised rate;
- The Council would therefore be introducing charges from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, with costs split between the preparation of the case and the organisation and clerking of the panel;
- Schools could use alternative providers if they wish, but would need to reassure themselves that providers were acting in accordance with the DfE Appeals Code;
- Concerns had been raised that schools may want to admit over their PAN in order to avoid paying for appeals; and
- It had been agreed that a small group of Schools Forum representatives would draft a position statement which could then be circulated to schools and this statement states that the expectation of Schools Forum is that all schools would fund appeals and maintain their PAN to be fair and consistent to all

Schools Forum were asked to approve the proposed position statement. The Chair asked for an annual report to be prepared for Schools Forum to give them details of the numbers and type of appeal hearings so that this could be monitored.

**Resolved:**

1. **That Schools Forum note the update and that the Local Authority will be introducing new charges for Admission Appeals from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.**

2. That Schools Forum agree the proposed position statement and that this be circulated to all schools through Right Choice.
3. That an annual report on School Admission Appeals be prepared for Schools Forum at the October meeting each year.

23 **f40 - Campaign for Fair Funding for Schools Update**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to provide the Forum with an update on the work of the f40 group. The f40 group have recently issued an outline of the work that they are undertaking and the direction of their fairer funding campaign. Grant highlighted the following:

- The f40 group had issued their latest campaign focus, concentrating on the following areas;
  - Fairness
  - Increased Funding
  - SEND
  - Early Years
  - Covid
- The key areas which f40 is asking for were;
  - Changes to the NFF to make it fairer, more easily understood and transparent
  - Additional £5.5bn to be funded between now and 2023
  - Guaranteed three-year funding programme
  - Schools fully recompensed for Covid costs and lost income.

**Resolved that Schools Forum:**

**Note the contents of the report and the f40 update.**

24 **Updates for Schools Forum**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) gave the following update on Covid funding:

- There would soon be an announcement for Schools via Rightchoice regarding the Covid workforce funding which covers the period following October half term up to Christmas and this would give details of how schools could make claims;
- The DfE had offered funding for exceptional costs relating to Covid between March and July 2020 and all these payments had now been made;

- The payment of the second tranche of the Covid Catch Up Premium payments of £80 per primary pupil and £240 for secondary pupils had just been released;
- There had been announcement of £302 million as a Covid Recovery premium grant for schools. Although the full details were not yet available it was thought that they would be £6k for an average primary and £22k for an average secondary school using disadvantaged pupils as a driver for that. A sum of £200m would also be available for tutoring and £200m for running summer sessions in secondary schools; and
- The f40 group would continue to raise requests for additional Covid costs.
- Schools were reminded that on their website they should refer to the Covid Catch Up Premium and state what the school was using it for.

Grant Davis referred to the report (circulated as Agenda Supplement 2) which gave details of the consultation for changes to the Sparsity Factor for 2022-23. Grant highlighted the following:

- The consultation focused on the proposed changes to begin measuring sparsity distances – which determine whether schools are remote enough to attract sparsity funding – by road journeys, not as the ‘crow flies’, to better reflect the actual distance between schools and to increase the maximum sparsity factor values by £10,000 across all phases in the 2022-23 schools national funding formula (NFF);
- During the DfE’s research, their evidence had suggested that the group of schools which were experiencing the most significant financial challenges are small, remote schools. The DfE recognise the vital role that such schools play in the rural communities they serve and that without them pupils could face long travel distances to school;
- Obviously, Wiltshire is a rural county with many small and rural schools eligible for sparsity funding. The current definition of sparsity is for a primary school with 150 pupils or less and the average distance from each pupil’s home postcode to their next nearest compatible school is 2 miles or greater as the crow flies. For secondary schools this would mean 600 pupils or less and the average distance from each pupil’s home postcode to their nearest compatible school is 3 miles or greater as the crow flies;
- The current maximum funding payable through this factor for eligible schools is £45,000 for primary and £70,000 secondary schools;
- Through the DfE’s analysis, there were currently around 1,200 schools eligible for sparsity funding nationally and the change in calculating sparsity distances would increase this number by around 900 schools;

- In Wiltshire there were currently 73 primary schools and 3 secondary schools that fall into the “small schools” definition for sparsity funding. Of the 73 currently only 29 are eligible under the “crow flies” distance whereas the road distance would mean that 52 schools would become eligible. However, it still left 21 small primary schools ineligible;
- There are three “small” secondary schools of which 2 are currently eligible for sparsity funding and these proposals would mean that the third secondary would also be eligible;
- There were alternative options to sparsity as there was no one perfect solution to support small and rural schools. If the distance threshold was reduced to 1 mile this would mean that only 5 of Wiltshire’s 73 small schools would not be eligible and these 5 were all urban small schools;
- Another way of looking at it could be that the lump sum is graduated in favour of small schools using a sliding scale of thresholds depending on pupil numbers. This could also be used for applying the minimum per pupil funding level on a graduated scale. For small schools, spreading the lump sum over a small number of pupils results in a disproportionate impact upon their overall ‘per pupil’ funding; and
- The Local Authority would share a proposed response for Schools via Rightchoice and all schools would be asked to respond to the consultation.

The Salisbury Diocesan representative thanked Grant for the quick response to the consultation and urged Forum members to complete the consultation which is important for Wiltshire. He welcomed the use of road distance as a measure which would include a further 52 schools for sparsity funding which was a step in the right direction, but this would still leave 21 ineligible. A reduction to a distance of 1 mile would mean that only 5 Wiltshire Schools and 2 Dorset schools would miss out. He also welcomed the suggestion of the graduation of the lump sum .

A Councillor representative who was also a small primary school Governor welcomed the opportunity to respond to the consultation on this issue and would raise this with the Headteacher to ensure a response was submitted.

The Chair asked if the road distance was reduced to one mile meaning more schools were eligible, would the quantum amount received be the same and that more schools would get a share, so the amount reduces? Grant Davis reported that if this proposal was carried forward for 2022-23 the amount received for Wiltshire would be based on this new methodology so the LA would be fully funded and it would be up to Schools Forum to determine how to distribute that funding in the best way.

The Chair reported that the deadline for the consultation was 9 April 2021 and although this was in the Easter holidays, all schools would be urged to submit a response to the consultation to share Wiltshire's views on this issue.

**Resolved:**

- 1. That Schools Forum note the Covid funding update.**
- 2. That Schools Forum note the content of the report relating to the consultation for small rural schools and encourage school colleagues to participate in and respond to the consultation by 9 April 2021.**

25 **Scheme for Financing Local Authority Maintained Schools**

Bea Seggari (Schools Support Accountant) referred to her report which outlined the updated Wiltshire Scheme for Financing Local Authority Maintained Schools and provided Schools Forum members with an update, following the revisions detailed in the DfE's statutory guidance in August 2020. Bea highlighted the following key points in her report:

- That the scheme only applied to maintained schools and its role was to define the financial relationship between the local authority and the schools it funds; and
- Included in the scheme was financial controls, budget share and banking arrangements, surplus and deficit balances, income, charging of a school budget share, taxation, PFI, insurance, provision of services by the local authority, responsibility for repairs and community facilities.

The Chair confirmed that this had been discussed in detail at the School Funding Working Group and he thanked the Officer for producing a clear transparent document.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the content of the report and give approval to the updated Wiltshire Scheme for the financing of its maintained Schools.**

26 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

Schools Forum noted that the future meetings would be held on:

10 June 2021  
7 October 2021  
9 December 2021.

27 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 1.30 - 3.33 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Lisa Pullin, Tel 01225 713015 or email [committee@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:committee@wiltshire.gov.uk) of Democratic Services.

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