

SCHOOLS FORUM

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2012 AT COMMITTEE ROOM III - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE.

Present:

Mr N Baker, Dr Peter Biggs, Mrs Julia Bird, Kirsty Butcher, Mrs C Grant, Mr J Hawkins, Mrs Sue Jiggins, Mr M Keeling, Rev. A Kemp, Ms I Lancaster-Gaye, Mr J Proctor, Mr M Watson and Mrs C Williamson

Also Present:

Jane Ralph and Hazel Ryan

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Julia Cramp - Service Director, Commissioning and Performance
Mrs Ann Ferries – WGA, Primary Governor Representative
Mrs Jane Franchi – Salisbury Diocese
Tim Gilson – WASSH, Malmesbury School
Ted Hatala
Dr Tina Pagett – 14-19 Group Representative

2 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's announcements.

4 Schools Funding Reform

a. Next steps towards a fairer system

Liz Williams, Head of Finance gave a detailed presentation about the Schools Funding Reform.

The need for a piece of work to identify the additional costs of split sites within the allowable formula factors was confirmed. Concerns were raised over the use of FSM as the allowable formula factor in deprivation given the

number of service school pupils and it was agreed that both FSM and IDACI should be modelled.

The impact of the funding reform on the current consultation on delegation of SEN Support Services was discussed. It was agreed that all consultation on delegation of services should be absorbed within the consultation on funding reform.

It was acknowledged that there were wider implications to the reform and a need to have a Schools Forum representative on the project board.

b. Operational Implications of DfE Proposals

Liz Williams, Head of Finance outlined the report included in the agenda.

During the debate that followed it was agreed that in appendix 1 The Primary SEN – Exceptional SEN Element and Primary SEN – pupil element should be mapped to the low cost/high incidence SEN formula.

Members were unable to decide how the budgets in Appendix 2 should be incorporated into the formula for 2013/14 and it was agreed that more options were needed to consider this following the modelling work.

The forum gave its thanks to Liz Williams and noted the tight timescales involved. It was agreed that schools should be notified immediately about the upcoming consultation.

Resolved:

- a. To confirm the mapping exercise has been carried out as a starting point for modelling, but could be subject to change as the work progressed.**
- b. To confirm the principles in the report (paragraph 17) as a starting point that will be applied to the modelling of the new formula, subject to change after modelling.**
- c. To note the Early Years Reference group would be considering the required changes to the Early Years Single Finding Formula and reporting back to the June Schools Forum meeting.**
- d. To agree to bring the proposal for the composition of the Schools Forum to the June meeting.**
- e. To agree the proposed timescales for the formula review and consultation with schools.**
- f. To agree the establishment of two time limited working groups to work on the detailed formula proposals and make proposals to both the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group in order that proposals for the revised formula can be considered at the June Schools Forum meeting.**

c. Response to DfE Consultation

Liz Williams, Head of Finance outlined the report and introduced an updated consultation response form, which was circulated at the meeting and is attached to these minutes.

In responding to questions she pointed out that some questions were very difficult to comment on before modelling had been completed.

Resolved:

To send the response subject to the following amendments:

Response to question 15:

- **Add Wiltshire's position to paragraph 1 – National Funding Formula**
- **Add figures to paragraph 2 – Pupils from service Families**
- **Add concerns over Young Peoples Support Service to paragraph 3 – High Needs Pupils**
- **Add the support of the Wiltshire Governors Association to paragraph 5 – Schools Forum**
- **Ask for clarification on the timescale for Schools Forum changes**

5 Confirmation of dates for future meetings

When considering the dates of future meetings it was asked of officers to agree dates for the next academic year as soon as possible.

It was agreed that an extra-ordinary meeting be scheduled for 18 October 2012 to start at 1.30 pm

6 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 1.00 - 3.40 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kirsty Butcher, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 713 948, e-mail kirsty.butcher@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115