



# Sandwell

Metropolitan Borough Council

## Minutes of the Schools Forum

Held on Monday 12th October 2015 at 5.00 p.m.  
Orchard School, Oldbury

**Members Present:** D Barton, D Fereday, C Gallant, S Marshall, P Jones, D Meredith, P Shone, B Patel, A Orgil, L Rouse, R Rickus, S Topper, A Sahota, K Walsh

**Officers Present:** Ms R Kerr, Prakash Patel, Darren Carter, Jas Kaur (Finance), Mr C Ward.

**Apologies:** S Harvey, B Banks, G Linford.

**Observers:** None

13/15 **Agenda Item 1 - Apologies**

As Above.

14/15 **Agenda Item 1i – Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Members were asked to nominate a Chair for the forthcoming year Schools Forum. L Rouse and K Walsh nominated P Jones. D Meredith and R Rickus nominated C Gallant. Each nominee was asked leave so that discussions on each individual could take place. The nominees were then called in and asked to set out why they should be the chair and how they see forum being developed. Forum members were then asked to vote on their preferred choice of Chair. The vote was as follows

P Jones 7 Votes  
C Gallant 3 Votes

P Jones was elected Chair with immediate effect. C Gallant was elected to be vice chair.

15/15      **Agenda Item 2 – Declaration of Interest**

P Jones declares interest for Union Facilities.

A Orgil declares interest for Pupil Number Growth – Additional Needs.

16/15      **Agenda Item 3 – Minutes Of previous Meeting**

C Gallant requested the following change in minutes dated 7<sup>th</sup> September

*The Chair responded based on her experience on this issue at their school.*

S Marshall requested a copy of Pat Evans responses that have been included as an appendix to minutes dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015.

S Marshall also indicated that she has not received any further information on Community Funds and that it should be included as an agenda item for the next forum.

Forum members mentioned no information has been supplied for the following bullet points

- *The number of placements at individual schools during the last 12 months.*
- *Identification of where the pupils were eventually placed.*
- *If children are out of education, how long for, whether they are EAL and/or SEN and what is the trend. Information required over a 3 year period*

R Kerr indicated that she has emailed K Rowland but is waiting for a response for the bullet points mentioned above.

C Ward mentioned that on the forum dated 07<sup>th</sup> September, S Marshall agreed with C Ward a total of three times.

17/15

**Agenda Item 4 – Schools Revenue Funding 2016/17**  
**Consultation Response**

R Kerr outlined the report and highlighted the following main points,

**Pupil Number Growth**

Q3 Academy will be opening September 2016, with an estimated cost of £0.431m.

Authority led and mid-year admissions estimate £1.500m

Pupil Number Growth is estimated at £1,950,000 for 2016/17. The majority of respondents agreed with this proposal. (45 agreed, 20 against)

**Exceptional Premises Factor**

Local authorities can apply to the DfE to use exceptional factors relating to premises. This factor must relate to premises cost where the value of the factor is more than 1% of a schools' budget and applies to fewer than 5% of the schools in the authority.

Shireland Collegiate Academy approached the authority with a request to be considered for an exceptional premises factor. The school stated they do not have access to any sports facilities and do not have a hall/sports hall to set up for exams. The school therefore have for a number of years hired Hadley Stadium to deliver the PE Curriculum and examinations.

The majority of respondents disagreed with this proposal. (1 agreed, 67 against)

**Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)**

The MFG should continue for 2016-17 to ensure that no school loses more than 1.5% per pupil.

The majority of respondents agreed with this proposal. (62 agreed, 5 against)

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**IL0 unclassified**

### **Primary to Secondary Ratio**

The following 3 options were consulted on:-

- Proposal A – no change, keep the ratio at 1:1.23
- Proposal B – move towards the national average (1:1.28) by one point per year over a five year period
- Proposal C – move towards the national average by two points in year one and by one point in subsequent years (four year period)

The consultation responses were as follows:

- Proposal A – Majority agreed with this proposal. (58 agreed).
- Proposal B – Four agreed with this proposal.
- Proposal C – Six agreed with this proposal.

### **De-delegated Budgets Proposals**

There were 7 De-delegated budget proposals that were consulted on and below shows a summary of the responses received.

Ref	Name	Lead Officer	Primary		Secondary	
			Yes	No	Yes	No
1	Behaviour Support Team	Kevin Rowland	49	5	4	0
2	Preventing Primary Exclusions Team	Kevin Rowland	50	4	N/A	N/A
3	Free Schools Meals Eligibility	Joy Djukic	53	1	4	0
4	School Libraries	Andrew Timmins	33	21	N/A	N/A
5	Health & Safety Licences & Subscriptions	Andrew Timmins	53	1	4	0
6	Evolve Annual Licence	Bob Brooks	54	0	4	0
7	Union Facilities Time	Bob Brooks	35	18	1	3

S Marshall asked for Joint Union Panel minutes to be attached to the forum paper but highlighted that JUP minutes had not been seen or agreed by JUP, S Marshall also requested data on the impact on staffing of any reductions in funding. D Carter indicated that for the data to be accurate every school would need to be contacted and they would need to submit their plans on how they would deal with any financial loss.

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Forum was asked to vote on the proposals put forward in the consultation and the votes were as follows

**1. Do you agree that the Pupil Number Growth Fund should be set at £1,950,000?**

14 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstain

**2. Do you agree that we should have exceptional premises factor to cover the costs of Shireland Collegiate hiring premises to deliver PE Curriculum/Exams?**

0 in Favour, 13 Against, 1 Abstain

**3. Do you agree that we should continue to cap the amount that schools can gain in order to cover the cost of providing MFG protection?**

10 in Favour, 4 Against, 0 Abstain

**4. Primary : Secondary Ratio. Do you agree with:**

**Proposal A:** No change maintain the ratio at 1:1.23

9 in Favour 0 Against 1 Abstain

**Proposal B:** Move toward the national average, 1:1.28 by one point per year over a 5 year period.

3 in Favour 0 Against 0 Abstain

**Proposal C:** Move toward the national average, by two points in year one and by one point in subsequent years.

1 in Favour 0 Against 0 Abstain

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5. Which of the De-delegated budget proposals do you agree with

**Behaviour Support Team – Primary**

7 in Favour 0 Against 0 Abstain

**Behaviour Support Team – Secondary**

3 in Favour 0 Against 0 Abstain

**Preventing Primary Exclusions Team**

8 in Favour 0 Against 0 Abstain

**Free Schools Meals Eligibility – Primary**

8 in Favour 0 Against 0 Abstain

**Free Schools Meals Eligibility – Secondary**

3 in Favour 0 Against 0 Abstain

**School Libraries**

7 in Favour 1 Against 0 Abstain

**Health and Safety Licences and Subscriptions – Primary**

8 in Favour 0 Against 0 Abstain

**Health and Safety Licences and Subscriptions – Secondary**

3 in Favour 0 Against 0 Abstain

**Evolve Annual Licence – Primary**

8 in Favour 0 Against 0 Abstain

**Evolve Annual Licence – Secondary**

3 in Favour 0 Against 0 Abstain

**Union Facilities Time – Primary**

5 in Favour 3 Against 0 Abstain

**Union Facilities Time – Secondary**

0 in Favour 3 Against 0 Abstain

18/15

**Agenda Item 5 – Pupil Number Growth Criteria Review**

R Kerr outlined the report highlighting that the proposed amendments are made

Increase in pupils is not predominantly in one year group. The criteria to qualify for additional funding would be the net increase has to exceed 4% of the previous October census and has resulted in the appointment of additional staff or other significant costs.

**Schools Current Budget Position.** The Department for Education recommended carry forward differs for academies to that of maintained schools. The proposal is to replace “DfE recommended” with “local authority recommended limit (8% for Primary and 5% for Secondary).

**General Guidance: section 1.3** Deadline for receiving requests. The deadline for applications for increase in one year group to be changed to 30th October of each year. The deadline for applications for mid year admissions to be 28th February of each year, after the October and Jan census.

**Template:Section 3: 3 year projections.** To add a column to the table to include the schools last year financial outturn.

**Balances carried forward for last 3 years.** The inclusion of a table to detail the balances carried forward for the last 3 years.

D Fereday asked for a time to be set when the criteria will be changed.

A vote was held on the recommendation and the outcome was as follows:

It was agreed that all future applications will be assessed against the updated criteria.

14 in Favour 0 Against 0 Abstain

19/15

**Agenda Item 6 – Pupil Number Growth - Additional Needs**

R Kerr Outlined the report and highlighted that census information has been used to calculate the funding for pupils with additional needs. The schools below meet the criteria as set out above and would attract funding as detailed below:

<b>School</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Hargate Primary	£29,374
Holly Lodge	£31,808
George Salter Academy	£29,246
Phoenix Collegiate	£16,154
Shireland Collegiate Academy	£8,626
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£115,208</b>

A vote was held on the recommendation and the outcome was as follows:

13 in Favour 0 Against 1 Abstain

20/15

**Agenda Item 7 – AOB**

D Meredith asked how/can we support schools that are most needy whether they are primary or secondary. C Ward mentioned that previously Early Years funding was available but was time limited to 3 years. The Chair indicated a discussion would be worthwhile at a future date.

C Ward informed members that he would arrange a meeting so that forum members could meet with the cabinet member in Childrens Service before the final cabinet decision is made for school ratios.

S Marshall asked for clarification on how the Early Years £7.00m allocation was used and distributed it was requested that a report



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be done on actual take up on 2 year old places against forecast it was agreed this would to be bought to the next meeting.

**The meeting was called to a close at 6.35pm**

**The next meeting will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 5pm in Committee Room 2 at Oldbury Council House, Committee Room 2**

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