



# Sandwell

Metropolitan Borough Council

## Minutes of the Schools Forum

**Held on Monday 21st March 2016 at 5.00 p.m.**  
**Committee Room 2, Oldbury**

**Members Present:** D Barton, K Bickley, D Fereday, S Marshall, P Jones, D Meredith, P Shone, B Patel, L Rouse, R Rickus, T Bowen, S Topper, C Walsh, C Gallant, S Harvey, A Orgill, E Harman, P Thompson,

**Officers Present:** R Kerr, C Ward, P Patel, D Carter

**Apologies:** G Linford, A Sahota, J Smallman

**Observers:** G Hill, A Timmins,

**11/16** **Agenda Item 1 - Apologies**

As Above.

**12/16** **Agenda Item 2 – Declaration of Interest**

G Hill declared interest for Pupil Number Growth agenda item 5

**13/16** **Agenda Item 3 – Minutes Of previous Meeting**

The minutes for the forum held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 were agreed.

**14/16** **Agenda Item 5 – Pupil Number Growth**

Ms R Kerr outlined the report.

G Hill informed members that there has been an increase in pupil numbers in year groups 7 and 8, which has resulted in an increase in teaching costs. G Hill left the room to allow a discussion and vote

to take place.

C Gallant asked if there was data on where the pupils were coming from and would it continue. C Ward indicated that a report on general place planning issues will be presented at the next forum which will help to highlight how much funding will be needed to fund pupil number growth in Secondary education. The report will also include pupil increase statistics, planned expansions and builds.

**The recommendation for Phoenix High School was approved based on the following vote:**

14 in Favour. 0 Against. 1 Abstention

15/16

**Agenda Item 4 – National Schools Funding Formula Consultation**

D Carter outlined the report and highlighted to members that the deadline for responding to the consultation is 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

S Marshall asked if questions can be submitted regarding the forum. P Jones indicated that any questions for the consultation response can be sent directly to R Kerr.

It was agreed the sub group would meet to respond to the consultation and this would be circulated to Forum members for their comment prior to 17<sup>th</sup> April deadline for submission. School Forum members were asked to vote on the process for completing the response.

**The recommendation for responding to the consultations was approved based on the following vote:**

13 in Favour. 0 Against. 1 Abstention

16/16

**Agenda Item 6 – School Budget 2016-17 Update**

R Kerr outlined the report and informed Schools Forum members of the final school budget information including Early Years and High Needs Block, Pupil Premium Grant (PPG), and Devolved Formula capital (DFC).

17/16

**Agenda Item 7- Annual Consultation on Arrangements for SEN Pupils, Early Years and Financial Issues**

R Kerr outlined the report. S Marshall indicated that a response could not be given as a report would be required on the impact of new developments, such as proposed free special school by Bristnall Academy Sponsors.

C Ward agreed with S Marshall and would arrange for a report detailing the Special, PRU and Focus provision which will highlight how it will effect place planning and the impact on how the High Needs Block will fund to support the sector.

S Marshall also stated the forum required more information on the new arrivals centre, as no information had been presented on costings and pupil numbers.

C Ward responded that the New Arrivals Centre will not be funded from the Schools budget. The authority will report back on the New Arrivals Centre after the completion of the PRU and places review.

18/16

**Agenda Item 8 – Support for Secondary Schools**

R Kerr outlined the report. P Thompson queried why schools with a “Good” or “Outstanding” category would potentially receive additional funding. D Meredith informed members that schools of all categories would receive funding and that good and outstanding schools still require funding because there are areas of concern within their exam results.

P Shone confirmed that the funding is a finite amount and each secondary head would decide how the funding would be used and targeted to move the school forward.

C Galant queried who would agree the schools Plan and the use of the allocation. P Shone informed members that the spending plan would be agreed by the schools governors prior to final sign off by the School Improvement Advisors.

**Schools Forum –**  
**IL0 unclassified**

S Marshall asked if HR issues had been captured if schools decide to change staffing or increase hours for members of staff. P Shone indicated that any impact on staffing would have been included in the schools spending plan.

P Jones requested a report to be bought back to forum for the evaluation on how the funding impacted on the school.

Forum members were asked to vote on the allocation of funding to support secondary schools.

It was proposed that a sub-committee be set up to draw up an evaluation report template for schools to complete at the end of the academic year 2016/17.

**The recommendation was approved based on the following vote:**

12 in Favour. 0 Against. 1 Abstention

19/16

**Agenda Item 9 – High Needs Block Budget – Follow up actions**

P Jones asked if members had any questions about the responses included in the follow up report. Members did not respond with any further comments. It was agreed that further updates would be required.

Chair highlighted that the report was not in the correct format required for Schools Forum.

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

**Schools Forum –**  
**IL0 unclassified**

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