



Sandwell

Metropolitan Borough Council

Minutes of the Schools Forum

Held on Monday 19th June 2017 at 2.30 p.m.
Oldbury Council House, Annexe Room 2

Members Present: R Kentish, P Jones, A Orgill, C Walsh, P Thompson, P Shone, A Burns, M McMahon, J Smallman, D Redmond, A Cysewski

Officers Present: R Kerr, C Ward, P Patel, R Maher, J Gill, A Timmins

Apologies: B Patel, A Sahota, D Barton

Observers: D Maher, R Fisher

18/17 **Agenda Item 1 - Apologies**

As Above.

19/17 **Agenda Item 2 – Declaration of Interest**

P Shone, A Burns

20/17 **Agenda Item 3 – Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes for the forum held on the 13th March 2017 were agreed.

21/17 **Agenda Item 4 – Appointment of Chair & Vice Chair**

Members were asked to nominate a Chair for the forthcoming year Schools Forum. P Jones was nominated by members. Forum members were asked to vote and P Jones was elected Chair.

A Burns was nominated by members for the role of Vice Chair. Forum members were asked to vote and A Burns was elected Vice Chair.

22/17

Agenda Item 5 – School Forum Forward Plan

R Kerr outlined the report informing members of future meeting dates and proposed agenda items.

C Ward requested for the High Needs Block to be included in the September meeting. A Burns asked if the fair funding formula will be included in the future meetings, R Kerr informed the group that it will be included into the agenda. C Ward also informed members that the Primary/Secondary would form part of the consultation this year.

23/17

Agenda Item 6 – Attendance of Meetings

R Kerr outlined the report highlighting any consecutive member's absences. C Ward informed the group that he would be in contact with the 14-19 provider and with the pupil referral unit to discuss the current membership.

24/17

Agenda Item 7- Fair Funding Updates including Day Care bank accounts

R Maher outlined the report. P Jones queried how private nursery settings are identified, R Maher informed the group that they would be registered separately with Ofsted.

Members approved the updates to the Scheme for Financing of Schools

25/17

Agenda Item 8 – Procurement Card for Schools

R Maher outlined the report.

Members approved the roll out of procurement cards for all schools from September 2017.

R Maher informed the group that the application forms will be updated and a circular will be sent to schools before the cards are issued.

26/17

Agenda Item 9 – High Needs Block 2016/17 and 2017/18

C Ward outlined the report informing members that the High Needs Block is projected to over spend in 2017/18 by £1.856m.

P Thompson asked if further funding from the DFE would be available. R Kerr informed the group the DFE were using historical data but we are waiting on the outcome of the consultation.

C Ward informed the group that a working group has been setup and have been reviewing how savings can be made before having to make reductions in top funding in 2018/19. The following expenditure is to be reviewed as a priority,

- Contribution to Children’s Social Care £500k – to see if this can be recharged on a case by case basis
- Contribution to CWD £119k – to evaluate the impact report for the service being offered.
- Central Recharges £678k – understand the basis of the historical calculation and to revisit.
- Cost of colleges and ISPs £2,862m – review and negotiate with Post 16 providers and create more internal places.

Forum members noted the report and agreed to the recommendations.

27/17

Agenda Item 10 – Pupil Number Growth Application Query

R Kerr informed the members that pupil number growth applications from Holly Lodge and Ormiston Forge were to be reviewed as a decision on Holly Lodge was deferred at the last meeting, and Ormiston Forge were unable to send a representative.

A Burns issued a paper to members “Pupil Number Growth Application – Forge Academy Notes”, and outlined the concerns of the school regarding the increase in pupil numbers.

P Shone was then asked to present his case, whilst he acknowledge that the school balance for 2015/16 was £0.899m,

Schools Forum –
IL0 unclassified

he was concerned that this did not take into consideration his commitments for the following year.

The school representatives were asked to leave the room whilst a discussion took place. The outcome of the decision is as follows:

Ormiston Forge– members considered the points raised and reviewed the handout issued by A Burns. After much deliberation, members were asked to vote and the outcome of the vote was as follows:

0 in Favour. 7 Against. 0 Abstentions

Holly Lodge – The original application was presented 13th March 2017 and schools forum decided to defer the application due to the year end balance of £899k being queried.

It was clarified at the meeting that the school balance as at 2015/16 was £899k and that the pupil number growth application would take this into account. After much deliberation, members were asked to vote and the outcome of the vote was as follows:

0 in Favour. 6 Against. 0 Abstentions

The Chair fed back the outcome once the schools representations where called back into the meeting.

It was further decided that the flow chart needs to be revisited and brought back to the next meeting.

28/17

Agenda Item 11 – Pupil Number Growth – Additional Funding

R Kerr outlined the report informing members that the schools listed below are experiencing significant increase in pupils with additional needs and maybe entitled for the additional needs funding.

Phoenix Collegiate £79,861

George Salter Academy £30,192

Members approved the payment to be issued.

29/17

Agenda Item 12 – Shireland Technical Primary School Delay

Schools Forum –
IL0 unclassified

R Kerr outlined the report.

A Burns asked if schools will be worse off in 2018/19 if the funds are used to offset the High Needs Block. C Ward informed the group that if the funds were used to offset the High Needs Block they would still be used for schools.

Members agreed to use the £271,996 to partially offset the High Needs Block overspend in 2017/18

30/17

Agenda Item 13 – School Balances 2016/17 & Budget plans 2017/18

R Kerr outlined the report.

The contents of the report were noted by forum members.

The meeting was called to a close at 4.05pm

<p>Contact Officer: Prakash Patel Schools Strategic Finance Unit (SSFU) Prakash_Patel_env@Sandwell.gov.uk 0121 569 8174</p>
