

**SCHOOLS FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2015
WOODLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Present:

<u>Primary School Representatives</u>	
Julie Swanston	Woolston Infant School
John Draper	Swaythling Primary School
Peter Howard	Fairisle Junior School
Amanda Talbot-Jones	St Denys Primary
<u>Secondary School Representatives</u>	
Richard Harris	Cantell School Governor – CHAIR
Jonty Archibald	Regents Park Community College
Toni Sambrook	Woodlands Community College
Ruth Evans	Cantell School
<u>Special Schools Representatives</u>	
Andy Evans	Great Oaks School
<u>Academy Representatives</u>	
Anne Murphy	St Anne's Convent School
Sean Preston	Hamwic Trust
David Turner	Governor Townhill Infant School
<u>Pupil Referral Unit Representative</u>	
Alison Parsons	Compass School
<u>Nursery Schools Representative</u>	
Anne Downie	Startpoint Northam and Sholing
<u>Non Schools Representative</u>	
Councillor Keogh	Council Representative
<u>Observers</u>	
Martin Brown	The Sholing Technology College
<u>Also in attendance:</u>	
Ed Grimshaw	Democratic Support
Councillor Jeffery	Cabinet Member for Education and Children's' Social Care
David Cooper	SCC School Organisation & Strategy Manager

David Cuerden	SCC Finance
Irfan Khan	SCC Finance

1. APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)

Apologies were received from Mark Sheehan (Mansbridge Primary, Sue Thompson (|Early Years and Sure Start), Robert Hardy (SCC – Principal Officer) and Peter Sopowski (TLP).

It was noted that the following Members had been appointed:

- Sean Preston – from the Hamwic Trust as an academy representative

The following vacancies were noted:

- 2 X Primary School Representatives
- 1 X Academy Representative
- 1 X Non Schools Representative for post 16 Education
- 1 X Secondary Representative Substitute

Members passed a vote of thanks to Toni Sambrook who had kindly agreed to hold the meeting at the school and had arranged for the refreshments.

Ruth Evans, Cantell School, agreed to host the next meeting of the Forum on 23rd September 2015.

2. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 29th April 2015 were approved as a correct record.

3. SECONDARY SCHOOL EXPANSION

The Forum considered the report of the School Organisation and Strategy Manager detailing the potential effects on the numbers of secondary school places within the City that the increase in roll numbers of children being educated in infant, junior and primary schools could have.

The report detailed the three approaches taken by the City to address any potential future difficulties. It was noted that the City was working to: ensure that there was a complete take up of the places currently of offer; progress any potential adjustments to school buildings; and develop a long term provision strategy.

It was agreed that it was preferential that children chose to attend the

City's schools. The Forum discussed the requirement to promote the successes of the City's schools and encourage parents to send their children to schools within the City boundary. The Forum noted Hampshire schools ability to provide places for children from the City would most likely face future pressures as they too looked to rationalise their own capacities.

The Forum discussed: how the demands for capacity would affect the City's PFI schools and any potential restriction to the expansion of these schools; and the possibility of a "Free School" in the City Centre was also discussed. The Forum noted that short term financial implications were limited but, agreed that it would be very helpful to be kept informed of any developments that could potentially affect the demand for school places within the City.

RESOLVED that the Forum agreed that the matter become a standing item on the Forum's agenda.

4. SCHOOL BALANCES 2014-2015

Report of the Chief Financial Officer detailing the Revenue and Capital balances held by schools at the end of 2014/15.

The Forum noted that whilst the overall figure indicated there was a substantial balance across all schools it was clear that Primary Schools had significantly higher balances.

The report detailed that approved budgets for the schools had indicated that there would be a reduction to the 2013-2014 level of balances by £4.6m but that only the balance was actually only reduced by £1.228m. In addition the report detailed individual balances for each school.

The Forum noted that there were 2 schools that now indicated a deficit that totalled £118,000. It was explained that information relating to academy schools was not set out in the report.

The Forum discussed the necessity to gain as much information on individual schools balances, in order to assess whether there was a possibility of funding being redistribution. The Forum discussed the potential for bench marking levels that would trigger discussion as to whether a balance could be, or would be, distributed and noted that this level of information was very much dependent on schools detailing the intended purpose for any carried forward balance.