

**SCHOOLS FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9th MARCH 2015
SURE START SHOLING**

Present:

<u>Primary School Representatives</u>	
Richard Harris (Chair)	Moorlands Primary Governor
John Draper	Swaythling Primary School
Peter Howard	Fairisle Junior School
<u>Secondary School Representatives</u>	
Jonty Archibald	Regents Park
Martin Brown	The Sholing Technology College
Toni Sambrook	Woodlands Community College
<u>Special Schools Representatives</u>	
Anne Hendon-John	Polygon School
<u>Academy Representatives</u>	
David Turner (Vice Chair)	Townhill Infant School (Governor)
Sean Preston	Hamwic Trust
<u>Pupil Referral Unit Representative</u>	
Alison Parsons	Compass School
<u>Nursery Schools Representative</u>	
Anne Downie	Startpoint Northam and Sholing
<u>Also in attendance:</u>	
Ed Grimshaw	Clerk
Jo Cassey	Principal Officer for Early Years and Education
Irfan Khan	SCC Principal Accountant
Dave Cuerden	SCC People Directorate's Finance Manager
Sevil Rush	SCC Finance Manager

1. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

The Forum noted the apologies of Councillors Keogh and Jeffrey, Chris Ode, Mark Sheehan, Andy Evans and Anna Wright.

The Chair expressed the thanks and best wishes to Dave Cuerden the Forum's financial advisor for his help and support to the Forum as he was leaving the City Council to take up another position elsewhere.

In addition it was noted that the following vacancies still required to be filled:

- 1 X Primary Schools Sector Representative
- 1 X Primary Schools Sector Representative (Substitute)
- 1 X Secondary Schools Sector Representative
- 1 X Secondary Schools Sector Representative (Substitute)
- 1 X Special School Sector
- 1 X Academy Schools Sector
- 1 X Non-Schools Sector (Post 16 representative)

The Chair thanked the Sholing Sure Start Centre for hosting the meeting.

2. **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 13th and 20th January 2016 were approved as a correct record.

3. **SECONDARY SCHOOLS EXPANSION (VERBAL UPDATE)**

The Forum noted that the matter continued to develop and

4. **SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES (FORMERLY INTERVENTION FUND)**

The Forum considered the report of the Principal Officer Education and Early Years detailing the Support for Schools in Financial Difficulties Funding.

The Forum AGREED that the criteria set out in the report should be used to assess what payments could be made to a school. In addition the Forum AGREED that the Option 2 set out in the report would be adopted to govern the process of how and when the payments would be made. A new bidding application / business case template will be developed and shared with all schools who contributed to this fund. For Clarity the report stated that:

“The schools apply through a bidding process once their half yearly budget plans are updated in September / October. Should a school believe that their financial circumstances warrant further consideration and financial support under exceptional circumstances, then a business case will need to be submitted to

the Principal Officer for Early Years and Education for such consideration. Any submission will need the support of the school's governing body. It will need to be reviewed by the Finance Manager and Principal Accountant for Early Years & Education prior to formal consideration by Principal Officer."

5. **SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND UNIT PROVISION 2016/17**

The Forum considered a report outlining the proposals for the funding for special schools within the City.

The Forum noted that there is no requirement for a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for special school and units. However, that there is a requirement that the top-up element of the funding is set at such a level that, if all the places were filled and the pupils came from the maintaining authority, the school's budget would reduce by no more than 1.5%.

It was also noted that due to the pressures on the High Needs Block for 2016/17, there have been a subsequent requirement to transfer over an additional £1.1M of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. This was confirmed that this was consistent with the change of funding in mainstream schools to accommodate the transfer of funding between blocks. The top up rates for 2016/17 will remain as 2015/16.

In addition it was noted that the actual top-up funding that the schools receive may vary compared to the indicative allocations because actual payments will be made on the basis of actual number of Southampton pupils within each band. For other local authority pupils, schools will receive funding from those authorities directly. It was AGREED that this would be on a case by case basis.

6. **NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA FROM 2019-20 – VERBAL UPDATE**

The Forum received a briefing from Irfan Khan seeking to update members of the Forum of the consultation process for the introduction of the New National Funding Formula for schools.

It was noted that the Department for Education (DfE) had started a two stage consultation on their proposals for the New Fair Funding Formula. The DfE are planning to introduce a school-level ('hard') national funding formula from 2019-20, significantly reducing the role of local authorities, and a local authority level ('soft') formula in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

It was noted there was a two stage consultation being undertaken by the DfE.

It was explained Stage 1: "A vision for the future funding system as a whole and the principles that underpin it" in particular:

- the design of the system
- the role of the local authority
- the factors to include for each block

It was noted that Stage 1 of the consultation was open, to 17 April 2016.

It was further noted Stage 2: detailed proposals for factor weightings and

the impact of the new formulae on local authorities and schools It was explained that this will start after Stage 1 at a date to be confirmed. It was also explained that the consultation on Early Years consultation would follow on later the year.

It was AGREED at the meeting that the links relating to Stage 1 of consultation would be circulated to all schools and that members should encourage colleagues to take part in the consultation to ensure that there was as full a response as possible.

The following links were made available:

The Official Press Release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fairer-school-funding-plan-revealed>

A link to the schools national funding formula consultation:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula>

In relation to respond to the consultation the online consultation form can be found here:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula>

Related Documents

- [Schools national funding formula: Government consultation – stage one](#)
3.2 MB (PDF document)
- [Schools and high needs funding reform: The case for change and consultation summary](#) 1.8 MB (PDF document)

High needs funding reform consultation:

The online form for responding to consultation can be found here:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/high-needs-funding-reform>

Related Documents

- [Research on funding for young people with special educational needs](#) (815.2 kB PDF document)
- [High needs funding consultation: technical note](#) (324.1 kB PDF document)
- [Schools and high needs funding reform: The case for change and consultation summary](#) (1.8 MB PDF document)
- [Research on funding for young people with special educational needs: Research report July 2015](#) (1.9 MB PDF document)