

SCHOOLS FORUM  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 January 2022

<b><u>In attendance</u></b>	
<b><u>Chair and Vice Chair</u></b>	
John Draper	Headteacher – Swaythling Primary
Harry Kutty	Headteacher – Cantell School
<b><u>Primary Schools</u></b>	
Amanda Talbot-Jones	Headteacher – St Denys Primary
P K Macbride	
Debbie McKensie	
Mike Adams	Headteacher – Bitterne Manor Primary
<b><u>Secondary Schools</u></b>	
Jim Henderson	Headteacher – Woodlands Community College
Roger Peplow	Governor – St Georges School
<b><u>Academy</u></b>	
Sean Preston	Hamwic Trust
James Rouse	St Ann’s Catholic School
<b><u>Special Schools</u></b>	
Maria Smyth	Headteacher – Vermont school
<b><u>Nursery</u></b>	
Anna Wright	PVI for Early Years
<b><u>Non-Schools</u></b>	
Rob Sanders	Diocese of Winchester
<b><u>Observers</u></b>	
Sue Thompson	Early Years/Sure Start
<b><u>SCC officers</u></b>	
Virginia Newsom	
Steve Wade	
Derek Willes	
Keith Petty	
Tammy Marks	

**Apologies**

Peter Howard	Headteacher – Fairisle Junior
Colin Grant	Governor Cedar School
Ross Williams	Governor Mason Moor Primary

18. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Forum agreed and noted the minutes of the meeting heard on 17 November 2021.

19. **2022-23 SCHOOLS REVENUE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS AND DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT**

The Forum considered the paper detailing the 2022-23 Schools Revenue Funding Arrangements and Dedicated Schools Grant and the additional papers circulated prior to the meeting.

The Forum noted that the estimated growth fund requirement is £393,000 and CSSB (Central School Services Block ) shortfall £103,000 is £155,000 more than the predicted surplus. The Local Authority proposed that the AWPU and MFG factors are marginally reduced below the full NFF (national Funding Formula) with an area cost adjustment as shown below so that growing schools receive the funding for extra classes of pupils in September 2021 and 2022 and key services to schools are not reduced.

It was noted that whilst the CSSB funds part of the statutory services provided to schools, a substantial part £656,000 is funded by the Local Authority from General Funds. It was explained that if the shortfall in the CSSB was not supported by schools in 2022-23, it would impact the ability of the Education team to continue to assist schools. It was proposed that a small contribution for these elements is made by a reduction to the full NFF AWPU of £3 per primary unit and £5 per secondary unit and using an MFG rate of 1.85%. The average impact of all three proposed changes on schools is minimal at less than 0.2% of a school's budget.

**Upon being put to the vote the Forum voted to**

- 1. To a block transfer to the CSSB of £103k**
- 2. Accrue a growth fund of £393k**

Secondly the Forum discussed the recent announcement from the Department for Education regarding a reduction in the School Improvement Grant paid to Local Authorities. It was explained that this was used to assist maintained schools by the provision of funds and school improvement officers. In 2022-23 SCC will have a reduction of £44k in the grant. The Department for Education indicated that the shortfall in the grant could be deducted from maintained schools budget shares via the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) – Education Functions.

SCC proposed a deduction of £2.4 per pupil in a maintained school is made within the APT to compensate for the shortfall cause by the DfE Changes.

**Upon being put to the vote the maintained schools representatives voted to support the proposed deduction**

The Forum noted the APT is subject to agreement by the Department for Education, and in the event that the DfE require changes, SCC Finance officers requested that Schools Forum agrees the principle by which a revision is allocated to balance the APT.

It was noted that an analysis had been carried out to confirm which schools are most affected by a change in factors – principally reducing the AWPU or reducing the MFG rate. 6 primary schools (3 academy and 3 maintained) would benefit from the minimum per pupil funding and so are not affected by such an adjustment. 24 schools (21 primary and 3 secondary) are affected by changes to the MFG rate and not by the AWPU. 37 schools are affected by a reduction in the AWPU. By looking at the FSM6% and notional SEN it is possible to identify the 25 schools with greater levels of special needs and deprivation within the pupil population. Of these, 60% are negatively affected by a reduction in AWPU.

Officers proposed that should any revisions be needed, they are deducted equally from the AWPU and MFG to ensure the most equitable outcome for all schools.

**Upon being put to the vote the Forum confirmed this principle.**