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SCHOOLS FORUM

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Wednesday, 17th November, 2021
at 4.00 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING

This meeting is open to the public

LEAD OFFICER
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AGENDA

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

2 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 1 - 4)

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2021, attached.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

NOTE: Members are reminded that, where applicable, they must complete the appropriate form recording details of any such interests and hand it to the Democratic Support Officer.

4 **STANDING ITEM: LA UPDATE ON DFE/EFA FUNDING** (Pages 5 - 6)

To consider matters raised in a briefing paper detailing the standard financial items including:

- DSG(Dedicated Schools Grant) Allocations for 2022-23;
- PFI (Private Finance Initiative) Funding and MFG (Minimum Funding Guarantee) 2022-23;
- Trade Union funding;
- Central in-year Growth Funding 2021/22; and
- Scheme for Financing Schools.

5 **FUTURE MEETING PROGRAMME**

Remaining dates Schools Forum dates for the **academic year 2021/22:**

Wednesday 19 January 2022, meet at 3.45pm for a 4.00pm start

Wednesday 23 March 2022, meet at 3.45pm for a 4.00pm start

Wednesday 15 June 2022, meet at 3.45pm for a 4.00pm start

Wednesday 13 July 2022, meet at 3.45pm for a 4.00pm start

Proposed dates for the **academic year 2022/23**

Wednesday 14 September 2022, meet at 3.45pm for a 4.00pm start

Wednesday 16 November 2022, meet at 3.45pm for a 4.00pm start

Wednesday 18 January 2023, meet at 3.45pm for a 4.00pm start

Wednesday 22 March 2023, meet at 3.45pm for a 4.00pm start

Wednesday 14 June 2023, meet at 3.45pm for a 4.00pm start

Wednesday 12 July 2023, meet at 3.45pm for a 4.00pm start

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSING REMARKS

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 19 January 2022, meet at 3.45pm for a 4.00pm start

Date Not Specified

Service Lead, Education and Early Help,

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Agenda Item 2

SCHOOLS FORUM
15 SEPTEMBER 2021

<u>In attendance</u>	
<u>Primary Schools</u>	
Amanda Talbot – Jones	St Denys Primary - Head Teacher
Julie Swanston	Woolston Infant School - Head Teacher
Mike Adams	Bitterne Manor Primary School - Head Teacher
John Draper (Chair)	Swaythling Primary - Head Teacher
Peter Howard	Fairisle Junior School – Head Teacher
Ross Williams	Mason Moor Primary – Governor
<u>Secondary Schools</u>	
Harry Kutty (Vice-Chair)	Cantell School – Head Teacher
Jim Henderson	Woodlands Community College – Head Teacher
Martin Brown	Oasis Academy Sholing – Principal
<u>Academy</u>	
Sean Preston	Hamwic Trust
James Rouse	St Anne’s Catholic School
<u>Nursery</u>	
Anna Wright	PVI for Early Years
<u>Non-Schools</u>	
Rob Sanders	Diocese of Portsmouth
<u>Observers</u>	
Sue Thompson	Early Years/Sure Start
Roger Peplow	
Maria Smyth	
<u>SCC officers</u>	
Keith Petty	Senior Finance Business Partner
Derek Wiles	Head of Education and Learning (SCC)
Virginia Newsom	SCC Finance Officer
Clodagh Freeston	Service Manager - Education Strategy, Planning & Improvement (SCC)
Emily Goodwin	Clerk

Apologies

Councillor J Baillie	Cabinet Member for Education

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

Apologies were noted from Councillor J Baillie – Cabinet Member for education

5. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

John Draper was elected as Chair from September 2021 to September 2023

Harry Kutty was elected as Vice Chair from September 2021 to September 2023

6. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: that the minutes for the Forum meeting held on 14 July 2021 be approved as a correct record with the following amendment.

It was noted that James Rouse had been in attendance at the meeting on 14 July 2021.

7. **MEMBERSHIP OF THE FORUM - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Forum received and noted the membership and the Terms of Reference for the Schools Forum.

8. **MEMBERS NOTED THE REQUIREMENT TO FILL IN AND RETURN DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members noted the requirement to fill in and return a declaration of interest.

9. **UPDATE ON SECONDARY SCHOOLS EXPANSION**

The Forum noted that the expansion of St. Marks all through schools was on track and that there would be a topping out ceremony for the school on 16 September.

10. **UPDATES ON SCHOOL NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA (NFF) 2019/20 - ON THE BASIS OF STAGE 2 RESPONSE AND DFE FINAL PROPOSALS**

The Forum received an update from Virginia Newsom, Finance Officer, on the local response to the government consultation on the National Funding Formula.

The Forum noted that the local scheme was detailed in the additional papers attached to the agenda and that any response received from local schools would be included in the Forums response to the consultation.

11. **UPDATE ON FUNDING FOR SCHOOL PLACEMENT INCREASE**

The Forum considered the briefing paper on the expansion of Hope School, which provided an update on Department for Education funding for a two form of entry primary school. Hope is currently a one form entry school.

Southampton City Council Officers Clodagh Freeston, Service Manager – Education Strategy, Planning and Improvement, and Derek Wiles, Service Lead - School Improvement, were present and with the consent of the chair addressed the Forum.

The Forum particularly noted the following:

- It had been a surprise that this item was on the agenda as the forum had not been aware of this matter before the cabinet decision was made, and had only learnt of it via the local press.

- Primary schools had recently been required to reduce their Published Admission Number (PAN) and make staff redundant due the surplus of primary school places in the city. Some of these schools are adjacent to Hope.
- The Hope school was a two form entry school when it originally opened and has never been able to fill those places. The PAN for September 2022 was 30 pupils.
- The Hope school was part of the New Generation Academy Trust and was located in the central planning region of the city.
- The new housing that had been built in the city had resulted in a redistribution of pupils throughout the city rather than an increase in the central area pupil population.
- Pupil forecasting detailed that there would be a surplus of 221 Reception Year places in September 2021, which would rise to a surplus 291 by September 2025. The forecasting included a planned reduction of PAN by 200 in September 2022.
- The Pupil forecasting had taken into consideration new building plans for the City.
- The planned reductions in school PAN's has been carried out through formal consultation on school admission policies.
- Further reductions in the PAN of primary and infant schools would be required in the coming years to protect school budgets and their capacity to deliver effective education.
- There is a surplus of primary school places but there is a shortage of secondary schools places and provision for pupils with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- The need for more secondary school places and SEND provision had been reported to the Department for Education, through the statutory reporting mechanisms.
- Information about the long-term plans for funding the school or the economic viability for the school was not available.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Forum supported the view that more suitable accommodation should be sought for the Hope School
- (ii) the Forum considered that the plans to increase the PAN for the Hope School from 30 to 60 would have an adverse impact on the existing schools and the provision of education in the city when there was a surplus of primary schools places which had required local schools to reduce their PAN and make staff redundancies; and
- (iii) the Forum would write a letter to the Council requesting that they take the view of the Forum into account in their decision making

12. **PFI**

The Forum received an update from Virginia Newsom, Finance Officer, on the PFI consultation.

RESOLVED that a separate meeting with Finance Officers and School Forum members would be held to collate the detailed response to the PFI consultation

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SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

Schools Forum – 17th November 2021

Report From: Virginia Newsom – Interim Finance Business Partner

STANDING ITEM: LA UPDATE ON DFE/EFA FUNDING

1. DSG Allocations for 2022-23

The current APT model (based on the October 2020 census) gives a school's block budget of £163,807k of which £68,879k is academy recoupment. These amounts are scheduled to be updated in December with data from the October 2021 census details

2. PFI Funding and MFG 2022-23

We have 3 PFI secondary schools with additional PFI premises costs of £738k. Under NFF these costs are not protected in the MFG calculation. As in previous years we will need to insert a technical adjustment in the APT model to disapply PFI costs in order that the PFI schools benefit from MFG protection like every other school.

A compensating 0.4% correction on average to other school balances (including academies) would be required to fund the adjustment.

Vote required from maintained and academy schools to approve a technical adjustment relating to PFI costs for use in the MFG calculation.

3. Trade Union funding

In previous years Schools Forum have agreed for maintained primary schools to allow the budget share to be reduced (de-delegation) for trade union fees. As the amount in this fund has accrued and should be sufficient for a year or so of costs we propose that no de-delegation is made for 2022-23.

Vote required from maintained and primary schools to agree no de-delegation for Trade Union dues in 2022-23.

4. Central in-year Growth Funding 2021/22

A central allowance for growth funding from the 2022/23 Schools Block allocation will be needed for identified growth in schools (maintained and academy) above operational PAN identified from the October 2021 census that met the eligibility criteria in our growth funding policy. Due to lagged funding, this is required to fund the additional pupils for the period Sep 2021 to Mar 2022 for maintained and the Sept 2021/22 academic year for academies. As per DFE guidance the amount will be top sliced from the school's budget allocation to provide a central growth fund. The growth fund policy has not increased the amount payable since 2019, although staff and resources costs have increased due to pay and pension changes. We propose increasing the lump sum

from £56,200 to £66,000 primary and from £72,500 to £88,300 secondary for these changes. The growth amounts are not confirmed until pupil numbers are known.

Vote required from maintained and academy schools to approve this increase.

5. Scheme for Financing Schools.

In the September Schools Forum a revised Scheme for Financing Schools was presented and subsequently sent to all maintained schools for comments. Two comments were received asking for clarification of a couple of points. No objections were received.

Vote required from maintained schools to approve the Revised Scheme for Financing Schools.