



Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th December 2016

Wellington Suite, Tollbar Conference Centre

Present: David Hampson (DH) (Chair) Phil Hutchinson (PH)
 Jane Aukett (JA) Cllr Ros James (RJ)
 George Krawiec (GK) Paul Cordy (PC)
 Kevin Gallagher (KG) David Kirven (DK)
 Liz Jeffrey (LJ) Alex Allenby (AA)
 Lorna Pendred (LP) Roz Danks (RD)
 Simon Overall (SO) Carole Harrison (UNITE)
 Kim Leach (KL) Kim Stevens (KS)

Apologies: Allie Majer (AM), Wendy Jackson (WJ), Carol Shaw (CS),
 Andy Zelinski (AZ), Trevor Wray (TW)

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| 29/16 | <p>Introductions and apologies Kevin Gallagher, Principal Ormiston Maritime Academy and Carole Harrison UNITE Convenor were welcomed to the Forum. Apologies – see above</p> <p>PC took the chair for the first item.</p> | |
| 30/16 | <p>Constitutional Procedures - Election of Chair and Vice Chair DH nominated as Chair GK proposed JA seconded Forum agreed unanimously for DH to continue as Chair</p> <p>GK nominated as Vice Chair JA proposed SO seconded Forum agreed unanimously for GK to continue as Vice Chair</p> | |

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| 31/16 | <p>Minutes and matters arising of the meeting held on 13th September 2016</p> <p>Minutes agreed as a true record – JA, KL</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p> | |
| 32/16 | <p>Other EFA Papers & Consultations</p> <p>NFF (Schools and HN) Phase 1 consultation still has not been responded to by central government. The Schools Finance Regulations for 2017-18 have still to be issued. Decisions being requested today are based on what is known at the time but should further information be received which contradicts or changes this then an emergency meeting of the working party will be held and a decision made if a full Schools Forum meeting is needed. Information regarding the impact of the NFF on NEL borough as a whole and individual schools should be released later today and it is expected that funding will be reduced.</p> <p>School Improvement – this will be moving away from the LA in September 2017, it is unclear how this will work. It has been indicated that £50k will be available to LAs for maintained schools but this is not confirmed, other funds may be available but this money would have to be bid for and would not be automatically given. The Regional Schools Commissioners are reviewing the money given to academies, DH had attended the RSC Forum but no direction given until the statement is released today.</p> <p>DH reported that a letter had been received from Peter Learner regarding an Accounts Return that needs to be completed by the 1st January. Those failing to do so has caused serious problems with the treasury, unless information is received on time the EFA will move back to April – March accounting. Information needs to be up lifted to the new website.</p> | |
| 33/16 | <p>Budget Settlement Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Living Wage increases to £7.50 from 1st April 2017 • No mention was made of the ESG, therefore it is assumed it is to be phased out • ESG Retained Duties rate of £15 for all pupils in the borough has been transferred to DSG • ESG General Duties rate of £77 per pupil will cease but there will be some protection for Academies and the possibility for LAs to charge maintained schools subject to | |

approval by the maintained reps at the Schools Forum

34/16 Schools Funding Formula – 2017-18

The Final Proforma submission deadline is the 20th January 2017, although the proforma has not been received as yet. A working party will take place on the 10th January at 1pm at Tollbar to go through this prior to submission. Working Party members to let DH have their contact numbers.

35/16 Schools Funding Formula – Centrally Retained and De-Delegated Expenditure decisions for 2017-18

The purpose of this report is to provide information to enable those members eligible to vote and to assist in the voting process.

Items that concern the Schools Forum at this time are as follows:

Centrally retained expenditure

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| Admissions | £217,559 | Proposer – GK Seconder – KL Carried unanimously |
| Servicing of Schools Forum | £11,300 | Proposer – GK Seconder – KL Carried unanimously |
| Termination of employment costs | £434,400 | Proposer – JA Seconder – SO Carried unanimously |

And the new item of:

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| ESG Retained Rate (£15 per pupil for all pupils within the borough) | £345,641 | Proposer – GK Seconder – JA Carried unanimously |
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DH raised the issue over RPA Insurance and warned colleagues to look at this closely as this does not cover some claims as it is an assurance and not insurance.

Items of Expenditure that can be de-delegated

It should be noted that these amounts are best estimates based on the information on current conversions known at this time. These require confirmation from the EFA and will be further reduced if there are further in year academy conversions.

This vote is only open to the 2 members representing maintained schools.

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| Schools in financial difficulties contingency/other | £44,103 | Carried unanimously |
| Free school meals eligibility | £5,594 | Carried unanimously |
| Behaviour support services | £32,220 | Carried unanimously |
| TU Facilities Time | £9,275 | Carried unanimously |

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- The voting decisions as detailed above are recorded and minuted
- The Schools Forum agree to the underspend of any element of both the Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund in 2016-17 being rolled forward to 2017 -18
- The Schools Forum agree to the creation of an earmarked element within the DSG central contingency of up to £150k in respect of potential extra calls on the above funds.

In respect of the last two bullet points recorded above DH / GK declared an interest in this discussion and did not vote or comment on these items.

Carried unanimously

36/16 High Needs Place Return

The purpose of this report is to advise School Forum Members of the total commissioned places for specialist provision for the 2017-18 academic year.

Recommendations

There are no specific recommendations arising from the report and Schools Forum are asked to note the report.

37/16 High Needs – Continuing Funding Arrangements

The purpose of this report is to advise School Forum Members of one situation where officers have decided to extend previously advised funding arrangements until the end of the Summer term 2017 prior to the setting of the 2017-18 high needs block allocation. These will be reviewed on the setting of the 2017-18

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| | <p><i>high needs block allocation once the final allocation is notified to the Council in December. The allocation will then be discussed at the Schools Forum in March 2017.</i></p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>There are no specific recommendations arising from the report and Schools Forum are asked to note the report.</p> <p>38/16 Apprenticeship Levy</p> <p>Government are committed to create 3 million apprenticeships to support increased productivity, two measures put in place to achieve this are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levy equivalent to 0.5% of payroll • Public Sector Targets 2.3% of Headcount (+250 staff) <p>This is administered by HMRC, deductions are through the PAYE process. Money can be used for existing employees or new hire and training must last at least 12 months. Money can be used, for example to train TAs to become teachers but graduate training is not included. DH stated that this will hit us hard so schools need to look at opportunities to get money back by upskilling current employees for example office staff. GK requested that information be passed onto all schools, discussions to take place at Governors Forum, Secondary/Primary Heads meetings and information circulated via email.</p> <p>Action 1: Apprenticeship Levy information to be circulated to all schools</p> | |
| <p>39/16</p> | <p>Consultation – Government Response re EY Funding, changes to funding for 3-4 year olds</p> <p><i>The purpose of this report is to advise School Forum Members of the Governments response to the recent consultation on the proposed changes for Early Years funding.</i></p> <p>LP commented that the hourly rate is still lower than those charged to parents so the main issue is whether providers can afford to take this on.</p> <p>The Way Forward</p> <p>Officers will continue working through the detail of the documents and will be project planning the implementation of the EYNFF. Such plans will include stakeholder and regular feedback to the Schools Forum.</p> | <p>KS</p> |
| <p>40/16</p> | <p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None</p> | |

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| 41/16 | Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 15th March 2017, 1pm, Tollbar Conference Centre Working party: 10 th January, 1pm, Tollbar Conference Centre Emergency SF Meeting may be needed in January | |
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