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**11th November 2019, 1:00 pm**

**Tollbar Conference Centre**

**Minutes**

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|  | **Attendees**  David Hampson (Chair), George Krawiec (Vice Chair), Andy Zielinski, Allie Major, Helen Hussey, Lorna Pendred, Phil Hutchinson, Kim Leach, Cllr Lindley, Dave Kirven, Alex Allenby, Casey Thornton |
|  | **Apologies**  Gill Alton, Carole Shaw, Peter Kennedy  DK advised that Roz Danks had left the authority. The Forum thanked her for her work. |
| **17/19** | **Constitutional Procedures**  DH advised that this has been the first meeting since July and that there needs to be an election of Chair & Vice Chair.  Chair - Dave Hampson second by GK  Vice Chair - George Krawiec second by Dave Hampson  DK advised that there has been two resignations;  Simon Overall - resigned  Kevin Gallagher - resigned  There now needs to be an election for two primary and secondary representatives.  **ACTION: DK to check election procedures and organise.** |
| **18/19** | **Minutes and matters arising of the meeting held on 11th July 2019**  Minutes Agreed as a true record, GK moved, LP seconded  RD - Call for evidence link was circulated |
| **19/19** | **Budget update**  DK gave an update on the national budget position following the Chancellors announcement on the 4th September 2019. This advised of:   * £2.6bn additional funding for schools in 2020-21 * £4.8bn additional funding for schools in 2021-22 * £7.1bn additional funding for schools in 2022-23   Final DSG allocations will be advised in December 2019  Of this amount £700m will be available nationally for the education of children with SEND. The individual High Needs Block allocations will be advised in December 2019.  Nationally £6m will be made available to increase the Early Years hourly rate. This amounts to 8p per hour. I addition the transition funding for maintained nursery schools has been confirmed as being in place until Match 2021.  Finally in respect of the CSSB historic commitments have been nationally reduced by 20%.  In respect of the Teachers’ Pension Grant then nationally £1.5bn will be made available for each of the above years to cover schools for the costs of the increases in pension contributions. |
| **20/19** | **Teachers Pay Award & Pension Grant**  DK confirmed that amounts received by the LA for 2019-20 has been forwarded to the schools, PRU’s and Special Academy’s.  The Teachers Pay Award Grant has been confirmed for 2020-21. In respect of the Teachers’ Pension Grant the national announcements reads as though this will continue until 2022-23. |
| **21/19** | **2020-21 Schools Funding Formula Arrangements**  DK went through the document highlighting the difficulties that the schools funding formula had presented this year.  DK went through the changes in the regulation, what had not changed and the proposed approach for the 2020-21 schools funding formula.  Whilst the schools block will remain ring fenced LA’s will be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their schools block funding with the agreement of their Schools Forum. NEL are not proposing to do this in this for 2020-21.  Also DK advised that the proposal did not include any top slice for the growth / falling roles fund.  All LA’s have the flexibility to set a local Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) between +0.5% and +1.84% which at the minute is 0.2%. DK advised that NEL were proposing +1.84% with no cap and scales which would mean schools would keep all there gains.  DK advised that all of the above was subject to the receipt of the final allocation which is due to be received in December 2019.  AZ- Highlighted issues with regards to Special Schools and the High Needs Block.  Modelling of the financial numbers was then discussed with the Forum members with the impact on individual schools demonstrated.  DK advised that there are four recommendations to the Schools Forum   1. Schools Forum note this report, 2. Schools Forum makes comment on the approach to be adopted, 3. No in year top slice be made from the schools funding formula in respect of the growth or falling rolls fund for the 2020-21 financial / academic year, 4. Schools Forum agree to the re-establishment of a small working party to work with officers to review the 2020-21 Schools funding formula to be adopted once updated data is received to permit this to be submitted as per the deadlines detailed in the report.   Schools Forum members, after a number of challenges confirmed they were happy with the approach to be adopted by the LA officers.  It was agreed that the Schools Funding working party to be held on 9th January at 10am  DH wanted to note his appreciation to DK & AA for their continued support. |
| **22/19** | **Consultation responses by NELC**  DK gave an update on 4 recent DfE consultations. These were:   * Financial Transparency of LA maintained schools and academy trusts * Implementing mandatory minimum per pupil funding levels * Clarifying the ring fenced status of the Dedicated Schools Grant * Extending the Academies Risk Protection Arrangements to LA maintained schools |
| **23/19** | **Any other business**  EYIF- LP concerned over the recent EYIF consultation. However there are only two options. DK asked who this information had been sent by. LP confirmed from Rose Tanser.  **ACTION- DK to seek advice on consultation** |
|  | **Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 10th December 10am-12pm, Tollbar Conference Centre**  **Items for discussion**   * **Approval of centrally retained and delegated /**   **de-delegated expenditure**   * **High Needs Place Return** |