

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th December 2018**

**Wellington Suite, Tollbar Conference Centre**

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| Present: | David Hampson (DH) (Chair) | Phil Hutchinson (PH) |
|  | Wendy Jackson (WJ) | Kevin Gallacher (KG) |
|  | George Krawiec (GKr) | Gill Alton (GA) |
|  | Jane Aukett (JA) | David Kirven (DK) |
|  | Allie Majer (AM)Carol Shaw (CS) | Alex Allenby (AA)Roz Danks (RD) |
|  | Andy Zielinski (AZ) | Cllr Kath Wheatley (Cllr W) |
|  | Kim Leach (KL)Simon Overall (SO)Lorna Pendred (LP) | Carole Harrison (CH)Kim Stevens (KS) |
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| Apologies: P | Helen Hussey |  |
|  |  | **Action** |
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| **25/18****26/18****27/18****28/18****29/18****30/18****31/18** | **Introductions and apologies**Apologies noted.**Minutes and matters arising of the meeting held on 15th November 2018**16/18 Minutes to be updated to read “DH proposed that GK be elected as Vice Chair”.Action Update: *DK to confirm at the next Forum if the invoice raised to the FE setting has been paid –* DK updated that himself and Nathan Heath had raised the matter again with the DfE. They had fully explained the situation and requested absolute clarity in respect of whether FE Providers have to pay student ESFA monies for permanent exclusions back to the local authority and if~~s~~ so whether it is enforceable through the regulations. DK and Nathan Heath had also advised the DfE that this matter was a sensitive issue with the Schools Forum and the response received would be shared with them and depending on the answer could be raised politically. A response was received to advise that the issue had been referred to a more senior officer to respond but as of yet nothing had been received. A full discussion took place on this matter which expanded to a recent Ofsted inspection at a local secondary academy, where it was understood the inspection had been triggered due to reduced student numbers in key stage four following transfers to the FE provider, which without local knowledge could have been inadvertently perceived as ‘off rolling’. The discussion concluded that Schools Forum would wait until its funding working party meeting to be held on the 10th January 2019 prior to deciding what action to take.**Action:** **GA to discuss the outstanding invoice issues with Debra Gray.****DK to update the working party on the 10th January 2019.****RD to write a formal letter to Katrina Gueli (Ofsted) to clarify the position of TAG as a matter of urgency and forward a copy to the secondary schools.** 23/18 Action Update: *consultation on the new reporting requirements of those LA’s running a deficit on their DSG Account has been released.* DK gave the following update – The Council had responded to this consultation. In brief, our response had been that the proposed information requested to be included in the report seemed reasonable and it was agreed the Forum needed to ideally not only agree but sign up to the plan. Concerns were raised as to what the DfE plans were if there was no new money in the system. Concerns were expressed that the proposed trigger breach of 1% of the gross DSG may be too high given the influencable spend which in the case of NEL would equate to 8% of the High Needs Block. The question was posed does there need to be a pre trigger warning?**Schools Funding Formula – 2019-20**New proforma has been received – increase in pupil numbers by 66 in the secondary phase, primary numbers have stayed the same (this needs to be checked). It was confirmed that Pupil Premium rates are staying the same for 2019-20..DK advised that the previous day Central Government had announced an additional £125m for the High Needs Block for 2018/19 and the same sum for 2019/20. For NELC this equates to an additional allocation of £357k for each of the two years. DK advised that included within the covering letter had been a sentence that LA’s top slicing the schools block may wish to reconsider their decision. DK advised that given the amount of the allocation and the level of High Needs overspend currently being projected NELC would not be reconsidering the decision agreed by the Schools Forum at the November meeting. DK also advised that an additional amount for the Special Provision Capital fund worth £100m nationally had also been announced for 2019/20. The individual allocations for each LA were yet to be issued.**Action: DK to share the notification letter with Forum members**GK questioned if schools had received the money ‘for little extras’ mentioned by the DfE. DK responded that he had not knowingly spotted this.The deadline for the final Proforma is the 21st January 2019. The working party consisting of DH, GK, KL, CS and AM, but others are welcome to attend, will meet to go through the final submission. **Action:** **Working Party to meet on the 10th January 2019 at 1pm to look at the final submission.****Schools Funding Formula – Centrally Retained and De-Delegated Expenditure decisions for 2019-20***The purpose of this paper is to provide information to enable those members eligible to vote and to assist in the voting process.*Forum members voted unanimously to agree the centrally retained expenditure as detailed in the report..SO/KL both agreed the items of expenditure that can be de-delegated back to the Authority as detailed in the report to be so.Other MattersDK alerted members to the fact that the Council takes advantage of the scheme where the Secretary of State for Education purchases licences centrally on behalf of all schools (academy and maintained) in the borough and recharges this cost to the DSG allocation. This cost amounted to £110k and covers numerous licences. Further information is detailed at Appendix D. **Action:** **DK to circulate Appendix D to all schools / academies.** **High Needs Place Return – 2019-20***The purpose of this report is to advise Schools Forum Members of the total number of high needs places commissioned by the council for specialist provision for the 2019-20 academic year.*This report is for information only. Schools Forum are asked to note the report.**Any other business**DK advised that there had been a number of “directed provisions” in respect of the Finance Manual of Guidance for maintained schools. The document would be updated and issued to maintained schools in due course. A summary of the changes would be shared with all academies for information. **Action:** **DK to share this information with maintained schools and all academies.****Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 20th March @ 1pm, Tollbar Conference Centre** |  |