



Meeting held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 1.00pm

In the Lincoln Suite, Grimsby Town Hall

MINUTES

	<p>Attendees</p> <p>Alex Allenby (AA), Jane Aukett (JA), Sarah Bate (SB), Liz Brummer (LB), Matt Holness (MH), Vicky Jones (VJ), Steve Kernan (SK), Karen Linton (KL), Emily Powell (EP), Wendy Jackson (WJ)</p>
35/24	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from: Cllr Margaret Cracknell, Richard Gargon, Ann Hardy, Jo Indian, Sally Jack, Lorna Pendred, Carrienne Robson, Carol Shaw, Rebecca Taylor.</p>
36/24	<p>Constitutional Procedures – election of a Chair and Vice Chair</p> <p>There were no nominations for Chair. JA offered to act as Chair for the meeting. WJ stated that she would email School Forum members as it was essential to receive nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Equally, more Governor representation was necessary from the Maintained Schools and Nurseries and WJ stated that she would be reviewing the overall membership. As two deputies were in attendance, the meeting was quorate. Two members had sent in their voting decisions prior to the meeting.</p>
37/24	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 21st November 2023 and Matters Arising</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2023 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising from the minutes.</p>
38/24	<p>DSG Management Plan</p> <p>Copies had been circulated to members. WJ stated that the information was for members to note unless they had any queries. It would be issued to all Headteachers and Principals. Rebecca Taylor would be giving a presentation on the plan at the forthcoming Headteachers' Conference on the key issues. Forum members had been updated at previous meetings about the plan and it would be submitted to the DfE for signing off.</p>
39/24	<p>National Funding Formula 2024-25</p> <p>LB stated that the national funding formula had previously been presented to members. There had been a meeting of a small working party representing Schools Forum who had scrutinised the figures and given general agreement. However, there was a need for members to agree the way forward.</p>

	<p>The information was displayed on screen and LB gave a detailed presentation on the schools' national funding formula 2024/25 using the latest schools block allocation following the revision by Central Government. LB highlighted the decrease in pupil numbers across the Borough between Secondary and Primary Schools showing 14 and 168 respectively. An analysis of how schools were impacted in each category was shown. In Secondary, there was an overall loss of 4 pupils but there was a shift across the Borough in terms of pupil numbers. The initial model expected £132.37m excluding the DSG growth factor but this had been reduced to £131.31m block allocation. After applying the NFF values, a total of £131.98m would be allocated to schools with a balance of £0.04m allocated to the Growth Fund.</p> <p>LB stated there had been very little discretion in terms of how this funding would be allocated out to schools. There had been no alternative options proposals and the DfE guidelines and principles had been adopted.</p> <p>SK asked how the figures for the growth fund compared with the previous year. LB responded that there was still a balance but there was less this year to allocate because of a drop in pupil numbers. AA confirmed the figure as £289,000 last year.</p> <p>Resolved: Schools Forum members voted and agreed to accept the decisions taken by officers in conjunction with the working party in respect of the final schools' funding formula proposed for 2024-25. There was no vote against.</p> <p>AA advised that there were two votes from the working party who were Forum Members and these was taken into account to ensure the decision was quorate and carried.</p>
40/24	<p>Growth Fund Policy 2024-25</p> <p>LB stated that Schools' Forum members had to be updated on the policy, to review the criteria for accessing this and how it was allocated. The DfE had agreed a mechanism to fund any temporary funding changes as agreed by the LA. Part of the new criteria was where there was a specific bulge class in agreement with the LA and the school. The fund could not be used for general financial issues or general growth due to popularity, had to be for a managed project with the LA and had to be ringfenced. LB stated that members were required to consider the criteria as proposed and to submit any feedback.</p> <p>LB stated that the increase in pupil numbers must materialise and take pupil numbers in excess of those funded at the previous October count. However, this was disproportionate for some schools with low PANs. This was particularly the case for two very small Primary schools where the same methodology had been used. The Working Party had proposed that either 15% of the PAN or 5 pupils would be used, whichever was the lower. Applications had to be received by 1 November for the relevant academic year for the following September intake.</p> <p>Resolved: Schools' Forum Members voted and agreed to approve the updated Growth Fund Policy and the proposal that either 15% of the PAN or 5 pupils would be used, whichever was the lower.</p>

41/24	Maintained Schools De-delegated 2024-25 LB stated that this had been discussed at the previous meeting and the Primary Maintained Headteachers had approved there would be no de-delegation this year. Instead of budgets being retained by the LA, the schools would retain the funding activities in their budgets and source that activity with the LA or other body. Resolved: Schools' Forum members noted that there would be no de-delegation this year.
42/24	Any other business WJ advised that she would email members regarding membership and attendance at School Forum meetings.
43/24	Date and time of next meeting The date of the next meeting would be agreed and emailed out to Members <i>* This was subsequently agreed as 11 March 2024 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber.</i>