

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th December 2017**

**Wellington Suite, Tollbar Conference Centre**

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| Present: | George Krawiec (GK) (Chair) | Lorna Pendred (LP) |
|  | Cllr Ros James (RJ)Phil Hutchinson (PH) | Helen Hussey (HH) |
|  | Simon Overall (SO) | David Kirven (DK) |
|  | Allie Majer (AM)Kim Leach (KL)Carol Shaw (CS) | Alex Allenby (AA)Casey Thornton (CT) |
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| Apologies: P | David Hampson (DH), Roz Danks (RD), Kevin Gallacher (KG), Trevor Wray (TW), Jane Aukett (JA), Wendy Jackson (WJ), Gill Altoft (GA), Andy Zielinski (AZ) |  |
|  |  | **Action** |
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| **18/17** **19/17****20/17****21/17****22/17****23/17****24/17****25/17****26/17** | **Introductions and apologies**Apologies - see aboveIntroductions – GK welcomed HH to the meeting and requested introductions from all present.**Constitutional Procedures**GK advised that it was that time of year where it was necessary to elect a chair and vice chair. At this point he handed the chair to DK to conduct the election process.**Election of Chair and Vice Chair** DK advised that he had spoken to DH who had indicated he was willing to remain as Chair. DK asked whether there were any other nominees. There were none.DH nominated as ChairGK proposedSO secondedForum agreed unanimously for DH to continue as ChairGK nominated as Vice Chair AM proposedSO secondedForum agreed unanimously for GK to continue as Vice Chair**Minutes and matters arising of the meeting held on 21st September 2017**Minutes agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.**Budget Update**  DK updated the Schools Forum following the recent autumn budget statement in respect of schools and education funding in general. He advised that there was no new money for schools. When asked about the national living wage he advised this pressure would have to be met by schools from their revised formula funding.**Schools Funding Formula 2018-19** DK updated the Forum on the 2018-19 Schools Funding Formula and took them through the slides which had been used in respect of the 3 consultation sessions held with schools.Particular focus was placed on the National Funding Formula (NFF) values and the values the Council was proposing using which were broadly NFF with refinements in respect of the primary AWPU.DK advised that it would not be possible to pay any one-off payment to schools in 2018-19.DK also wished for Schools Forum to note that in 2019-20 NEL may be required to top slice the Schools Block by up to 0.5% to meet High Needs Block pressures. This would be subject to further discussion and evidence as required by the DfE.He advised that once the updated schools census data was received the proforma would be updated and any refinements and adjustments made as necessary. To this end DK proposed a further meeting of the working party on the 10th January to discuss the final submission prior to its submission on the 19th January.DK advised at the moment the impact was all schools would receive an increase, 2 schools between 0.3 – 0,4%, 36 schools between 0.41% - 0.5% and the remainder over 0.51%.**Schools Forum requested to agree / note:*** Working Party to meet on the 10th January
* Delegation of final approval to the Working Party
* No one-off payment will be made to schools in 2018-19.
* Schools Forum to note that in 2019-20 NEL may be required to top slice the Schools Block by up to 0.5% to meet High Needs Block pressures subject to the DfE process.

**Schools Funding Formula – Centrally Retained and De-Delegated Expenditure decision for 2018-19** *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 | Carried unanimously |
| Servicing of Schools Forum | £11,300 | Carried unanimously |
| Termination of employment costs | £434,400 | Carried unanimously |
| ESG Retained Rate (£15 per pupil for all pupils within the borough) | £350,000 | Carried unanimously |

**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.
* That the amounts of £50k per fund for the two funds, Growth and the Falling Roles Funds are retained for 2018-19. **Carried unanimously.**
* The Schools Forum agree to the underspend of any element of both the Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund in 2017-18 being rolled forward to 2018-19. **Carried unanimously**

**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 2018-19 academic year.*DK went through the paper advising of the current position in respect of high needs places commissioned by NELC following the submission of the High Needs Place Return in November. DK advised that the number of commissioned places was as per the previous return with the exception of one of the special schools where commissioned placed numbers had been increased by 6.**Recommendations**There are no specific recommendations arising from the report and Schools Forum are asked to note the report.**Any other business**This should be notified to the Chair prior to the commencement of the meeting.GK felt Forum should note and offered his congratulations to NELC on the recent Good Ofsted rating following the Children’s Services inspection.**Date and time of next meeting- 13th March 1pm** Items for discussion* Schools Funding Formula – 2018-19 Update
* High Needs Block allocation - 2018-19
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