

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15th November 2018**

**Tollbar Conference Centre**

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| Present: | | David Hampson (DH) (Chair) | | Helen Hussey (HH) | | |
|  | | George Krawiec (GK)  Wendy Jackson (WJ) | | Simon Overall (SO)  Cllr Kath Wheatley (KW) | | |
|  | | Jane Aukett (JA) | | Roz Danks (RD) | | |
|  | | Phil Hutchinson (PH)  Allie Major (AM) | | David Kirven (DK)  Casey Thornton (CT) minutes | | |
|  | | Carol Shaw (CS)  Kim Leach (KL) | Nathan Heath (NH)  Alex Allenby (AA) | | | | |
| Apologies: P | | Kevin Gallacher, Gill Alton, Andy Zielinski | | | | |  | |
|  |  | | | | **Action** |
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| **15/18**  **16/18**  **17/18**  **18/18**  **19/18**  **20/18**  **21/18**  **22/18**    **23/18**  **24/18** | **Introductions and apologies**  Apologies noted.  **Constitutional Procedures**  DH advised that under the constitution the position of Chair and Vice Chair needed to be elected on an annual basis. DH handed over to DK to undertake the election process.  DH advised that he was happy to continue to Chair. DK asked if there was anyone else who wished to stand. No names were put forward. GK proposed that DH be elected as Chair. Carried unanimously.  DH advised that he was happy to continue to Chair. DK asked if there was anyone else who wished to stand. No names were put forward. DH proposed that GK be elected as Chair. Carried unanimously.    **Minutes and matters arising of the meeting held on 4th July 2018**  **Minutes** agreed as a true record – proposed by GK, seconded by JA.  **Matters arising**  **0-19 Phase 2** - RD informed the Forum that there had not been many changes with regards to the 0-19 Programme, the majority of the changes had been a natural progression, e.g. changes in the Governor Services management arrangements. NH added that the ongoing process of high needs is highlighting 3 levels of vulnerability. Formal Consultation has been extended. RD advised that there has been no movement with the Early Years and SEND consultation. The SEND inspection has highlighted capacity issues.  **Business Case on the possibility of building provision in NELC** -DK gave an update from the informal September Schools Forum. The business case has been to the leadership team and they are currently looking for suitable buildings.  **DFE view of funding of permanent exclusions**- DK advised that NELC have invoiced the setting for recoupment of funding following permanent exclusions. A lengthy discussion took place around high needs implications on schools and the issues Schools are facing.  PH added that Edward Timpson has been to visit him in regards to the local Issues and he is fully aware of the difficulties which NELC is facing.  **Review of the implementation of the 2018-19 Schools Funding Formula**  DH asked if there was any questions in regards to this report which had been circulated following the July meeting. No questions were raised.  **Budget update**    DK gave an update on the recent Budget Statement highlighting that the national living wage is to increase to £8.21 per hour from the 1st April 2019. In addition £400m is to be given to schools with the financial year.  **Teachers Pay Award Grant**  DK confirmed the LA had received the funding for maintained schools, AP and Special Academies. Payment vouchers in respect of the AP and Special Academies had been authorised and payment would be received by them soon. Maintained schools budgets would be updated accordingly.  A discussion then took place around the grant with particular focus around the fact that current reading was that the grant was not on-going and would be subsumed into the formula funding in 2020-21.  **Schools Funding & High Needs Block**  DK gave a update on the High Needs Block position advising that this was largely discussed at the informal September Forum.  DK confirmed 3 consultation sessions were held to which all schools were invited to. A total of 21 primary schools and 1 secondary school had attended the sessions. The information presented had been made available to all schools and adequate time given for responses to the consultation questions.  DK confirmed that budget pressures within the High Needs Blocks is a national issue with many LA’s reporting deficits, some quite significant.  DK confirmed the need of a 0.4% top slice from the Schools Block to meet High Need demand. He stated that really the LA needed more but that this had been reduced in order to mitigate the impact on schools and hopefully avoid an arbitration process with the DfE.  DH asked if 0.4% would be the one off or would DK being coming back next year asking for a further top slice.  DK confirmed that the 0.4% top slice is a request for 2019-20 only and could not guarantee that no request would be made the following year (2020-21) if this was allowable. If demand continued to accelerate then the financial pressures would not reduce.  The Forum discussed the Permanent Exclusions position in particular the current position with regards to the recoupment of funding from a local FE setting. DK and NH confirmed that an invoice had been raised to the FE and that on-going discussions were taking place.  DH asked if the 0.4% top slice takes into account funding being recovered from the FE setting.  DK categorically stated that excluding the issue with the FE setting, a 0.4% top slice would still be necessary to meet high needs budget pressures.  Schools Form unanimously voted to agree to the 0.4% top slice from the Schools Block to support high needs funding pressures in 2019-20.  **Action: DK to confirm at the next Forum if the invoice raised to the FE setting has been paid.**  **2019-20 Schools Funding Formula Arrangements**  DK gave an overview on the Funding Formula advising  that LA involvement has now been extended to 2020/2021.  DK requested another meeting be arranged for next month to discuss in particular voting on the centrally retained and de-delegated items.  All items under the recommendations were agreed / noted as per the report.  Next meeting arranged for the 18th December at 1pm  **Any other business**  DK advised that a consultation on the new reporting requirements of those LA’s running a deficit on their DSG Account had just been released. DK confirmed that the LA will be responding and will feedback at the next Forum meeting.    **Date and time of next meeting**  Wednesday 18th December 2018 1pm | | | | **DK** |