

SCHOOLS' FORUM

26 November 2019

Present:	Karen Burns (Chair)	Primary Schools – Academies
	Steve Marsland	Primary Schools –L/A Maintained
	Lisa Lockett	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Lisa Gallaher	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Andy Card	Primary Schools – LA/ Maintained
	Heather Farrell	Secondary Schools - Academies
	Susan Marsh	Governor, Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Elizabeth Jones	Governor, Secondary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Richard O'Regan	Secondary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Marie Wright	Primary School - Academies
	Robin Elms	Special Schools – L/A Maintained
	Rebeckah Hollingsworth	Pupil Referral Unit
	Anton McGrath	14-19 Sector
	Elaine Horridge	Diocesan Representative
	Scott Lees	TCC/NAHT
	Tim Bowman	Assistant Director, Learning
	Christine Mullins	Finance Business Partner
	Louisa Siddall	Senior Accountant
	Wendy Lees	Senior Finance Officer
Apologies for absence:	Councillor Fairfoull	Executive Member, Performance and Finance
	Councillor Feeley	Executive Member, Lifelong Learning
	Donal Townson	Governor, Primary Schools
	Simon Wright	Primary Schools - Academies

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Scott Lees declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 5, de-delegation 2020-21 and left the room during consideration of the item.

44 MINUTES

Further to minute 41 (i) of the meeting of the School's Forum meeting held on 22 October 2019 members requested that the surplus balance increases be amended to 12% for Primary School and 9% for Secondary School, in relation to resolution 41 (ii) members of the Schools Forum determined on reflection that further information was required and requested the item be brought back to the next meeting of the School Forum.

RESOLVED

That with the amendments detailed above the minutes of the Schools Forum meeting held on 22 October 2019 be approved as a correct record.

45 SCHEME OF FINANCING FOR SCHOOLS 2019

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director of Finance seeking approval of changes to the Tameside Scheme of Financing for Schools for adoption by all maintained schools in Tameside.

The Tameside Scheme of Financing for Schools had been updated to reflect Department for Education directed revisions and changes to local practice. Consultation on the amendments had been undertaken with Tameside Maintained Schools between 10 October 2019 and 31 October 2019. No objections had been received to proposed changes. The scheme will be updated in line with DFE updates going forward and will be brought to Schools Forum promptly with updates and for decisions.

RESOLVED

That the revised Tameside Scheme of Financing for Schools be approved for immediate implementation.

46 SCHOOLS BLOCK FUNDING FORMULA OPTIONS 2020-21

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director of Finance / Assistant Director of Education seeking support from the Schools Forum for the Local Authorities disapplication to the Secretary of State to transfer 1% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block; and, seeking support of a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block if the Secretary of State did not support the 1% transfer.

In considering the report members of the Schools Forum were requested to support, in principal, inclusion within the Schools Block Funding Formula of any additional funding made available by Central Government upon publication of the National Funding Formula settlement for Tameside.

The Education & Skills Funding Agency had confirmed details of the National Funding Formula for the following financial year along with indicative local authority allocations. It was reported there had been an introduction of the mandatory minimum per pupil funding levels and a minimum funding guarantee of +0.5% to +1.84%. It was expected that all primary schools would receive at least £3,750 and all secondary schools £5,000 (£4,800 KS3 and £5,300 KS4) for pupil led funding. It was stated that all schools would see at least 0.5% increase on their pupil led funding. The National Funding Formula rates would increase by 4% in all instances, except Free School Meals which would increase in line with inflation at 1.84%.

The Education & Skills Funding Agency had also released the "Schools Revenue Funding Operational Guide" document. The aim of this was to aid local authorities and their Schools Forums to plan the local implementation of the funding system for the following financial year. Tameside Council had in turn used this information to model some funding formula options, giving indicative formula budget allocations for each school. Three options had been modelled although figures were subject to change upon receipt of the updated School census data which was expected in December 2019.

Consultation had been carried out between 11 and 22 November 2019, with all Schools and Academies. The result of the responses of the Survey Monkey was tabled for discussion. There was a 41% response to the consultation, of which 60% voted in favour to support the 1% block transfer. The schools supported the implementation of model 3 for the schools block allocation and furthermore supported a 0.5% transfer to the High Needs Block if the Secretary of State did not support Tameside disapplication submission to transfer the 1%.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Schools Forum supports the Local Authority disapplication to the Secretary of State to transfer 1% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block**
- (ii) That should the Secretary of State not approve the transfer of 1% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, the Schools Forum supports the transfer of 0.5%.**
- (iii) That support be provided in principal for the inclusion within the Schools Block Funding Formula of any additional funding made available by Central Government upon publication of the National Funding Formula settlement for Tameside.**

47 DE-DELEGATION 2020-21

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director of Finance and the Assistant Director of Education seeking the de-delegation of budget for Trade Union Services and for School Contingency fund for the primary and secondary maintained school sectors. The Primary and Secondary sector were required to vote separately in relation to each of the services.

It was reported that Trade Union representatives provide schools, school leaders and Governing Bodies with support and expertise in employment related matters, helping to resolve workplace issues before they become too serious for the school and providing a significant and positive contribution to school leaders with their management of change; any large scale reorganisation school leaders may wish to implement; and the implementation of policies and procedures, enabling governing bodies to adopt and implement these policies and procedures for school staff quickly and easily. The de-delegation rate for Trade Union Support for 2020-21 was £6.47 per pupil.

The contingency budget had been established to support those schools facing a deficit budget position or to support the Dedicated Schools Grant against any future pressures where schools are closing or are forced to convert to academy leaving a deficit balance. It was acknowledged that whilst schools are facing financial pressures, it was considered prudent to establish a contingency budget to protect future pressures against the Dedicated Schools Grant which would affect all schools. The aim was to create a contingency fund of approximately £159k.

RESOLVED

- (i) That consideration of the delegation for Trade Union support and Contingency fund for Secondary Maintained Schools be deferred to the next meeting of the School' Forum to allow for further consideration of the implications to delivery of service.**
- (ii) That delegation for Trade Union support to Primary Maintained Schools be rejected.**
- (iii) That the Assistant Director of Education circulate alternative options for Primary Schools to purchase services provided by Trade Unions.**
- (iv) That de-delegation for Primary Maintained Schools to the Contingency fund be rejected.**

CHAIR