

Formula Review Meeting

Minutes

27th February 2013

Castle Hill

Present:

Paul Roach
Tony Purcell
Sandra Kelly
Jo Briggs
Kathryn Wilkinson

Malcolm Fullerton
Renee Mellis
Alison Bailey
Joan Saunders

Julie Edwards
David Smith
Janice Rigby

Head Teacher, Mount St Joseph
Head Teacher-Rivington&Blackrod
Head Teacher, Sunninghill School
Head Teacher, All Saints School
Head Teacher- Eagley Juniors
Academy

Union Representative
Governor, Westhoughton High
Business Manager, Turton High
Business Manager, St Matthews

Manager, Schools Finance Unit
Head of Finance – Childrens Services
Senior Schools Finance Officer

Apologies – John Porteous

Paul Roach chaired the meeting.

1. Minutes

DS reported that following consultation with schools the Milk Contract is continuing for 12 months.

Schools requested clarity re NQT charges re appropriate body role.

2. Benchmarking of LA Pro-formas

JE went through a presentation comparing Bolton's pro-forma to 23 other Local Authorities in the North West.

Bolton was near the average or between the highest and lowest value on almost all the factors. The two factors where Bolton was different to the norm were:-

- Low cost high incidence SEN – Bolton rates were generally lower compared to other LA's
- Protection of sixth form schools – Bolton was one of 2 LA's that used this factor

Formula Review recommended Low Cost High Incidence SEN should be reviewed in 2014-15. They also suggested that additional data for authorities would help to understand the figures, eg average funding in an authority, levels of deprivation within an authority.

3. Items subject to change 2014-15

JE shared a consultation document produced by the DfE re “review of 2013-14 funding arrangements”.

The areas that the DfE are looking to review in 2013-14 are:-

- Pupil mobility – should this factor just allocated funding to schools with high mobility
- EYFSP – how to deal with the change in EYFSP
- Lump Sum – should something be introduced in addition regarding a sparsity factor in rural areas.

The group went through the report but require further time to digest and feedback responses.

JE to circulate the report by e-mail to the group, the group to respond to JE with comments by 11th March and a further meeting be held on 20th March to finalise the response.

4. AOB

JE noted that two items need to be brought to the next meeting:-

- insurance charges
- high needs funding for PD children

5. Date of next meetings

9am Wednesday 20th March

9am Wednesday 24th April

Venue to be confirmed

Part 2 – School Meals

Elaine Long and Sam Hess attended the meeting with the Primary reps re School Meals. The meeting was arranged following concerns from schools re the complexity and understanding of the proposed SLA.

The main concerns that were raised in the meeting were:-

- affordability of service and impact on school budget
- schools with Halal paying more per meal rather than the cost spread over all schools

**EL agreed to cost out the impact of sharing Halal across all schools and assess the impact.
JE to take feedback back to PPR consultation group.**