

SCHOOLS FORUM

MEETING, 20th JANUARY, 2012

Representing Secondary School Governors

David Kay	-	Sharples Science School
Joanne Murphy	-	Westhoughton High School
Pam Livesey	-	Ladywood School
Renee Mellis	-	Westhoughton High School

Representing Primary School Headteachers

Diane Bohan	-	St Teresa's RC Primary School
Simon Bramwell School	-	SS Simon and Jude's CE Primary
Janet Coysh	-	Chorley New Road Primary School

Representing Primary School Governors

Mike Doyle	-	Pikes Lane Primary School
Lynne Kay	-	Sharples Primary School

Representing Secondary Headteachers

Tony Purcell	-	Rivington and Blackrod
Phil Hart	-	Westhoughton High School
John Porteous	-	Turton School
Paul Roach	-	Mount St Joseph's RC School

Representing Non-School Members

Malcolm Fullerton	-	Joint Unions
Andrea Egan	-	UNISON

Representing Special Schools

Maureen Morrissey	-	Thomasson Memorial School
-------------------	---	---------------------------

Representing Nursery Schools

Ann Macleod	-	Susan Isaacs Nursery School
-------------	---	-----------------------------

Representing 14-19 Partnership

Jonathan Steele	-	Firwood Special School
-----------------	---	------------------------

Representing Academies

David Mole	-	Essa Academy
------------	---	--------------

Also in Attendance

Councillor McKeon	-	Bolton MBC
John Livesey	-	Children's Services
David Smith	-	Children's Services
Julie Edwards	-	Children's Services
Jan Robinson	-	Children's Services
Vicky Ridge	-	Democratic Services

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Tania Lewyckyj, Olive Fairhurst, Bill Bradbury, Kathryn Wilkinson, John Thorpe and Neville Speakes.

Mr. M. Doyle in the Chair.

12. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 9th December, 2011 were submitted and agreed as a correct record.

Further to minute 11 of the previous meeting, members were advised that officers had attended the meeting of the North West Forum and the advice which had been received was that the composition of the Forum should be in line with the current regulations, which in effect stated that once a school has converted to an academy then they could no longer sit as primary school representative on the Forum.

A discussion ensued regarding this and, in particular, the fact that as the number of academies was increasing there was concern that a lot of experience and knowledge could be lost by those head teachers no longer being allowed to be members. Therefore, it was felt that some interim measure should be put in place which would allow existing representatives to act as observers until replacement Head teachers could be found.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

13 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman provided feedback from the North West Forum meeting held on 13th January, 2012, in particular, around how other School Forums operated.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

14. STRATEGIC BUDGET REPORT – CHILDREN'S SERVICES – 2012/2013

A joint report of the Director of Children's Services and Corporate Resources was submitted which informed members of the revenue budget for 2012/2013.

Members were reminded that, following the comprehensive spending review in December, 2010, Council agreed a two year savings and efficiencies programme for the Children's Services Department. The Department was set a reduced target for

the 2011/2012 financial year given the time that would be required to develop and implement detailed proposals for achieving the budget savings required. It was stated this report proposed a budget for the Children's Services Department for the 2012/2013 financial year, which reflected the full year financial effect of the decisions agreed by Council at its February budget meeting.

The proposed local authority funded revenue budget for Children's Services Department amounted to £54,830,200. In addition, the element of the budget to be funded by Dedicated Schools Grant, pupil premium and sixth form funding amounted to £219,070,600. Therefore, the total proposed budget for the Children's Services Department for 2012/2013 was £273,900,800.

The report gave a detailed variance analysis of changes between the original budget for 2011/2012 and the proposed budget for 2012/2013.

Members were also advised that the strategic budget redirections which totalled £16,760,000 were approved by Council in February, 2011, to be achieved over two financial years and the options which had been approved were provided in detail at Appendix D to the report.

In terms of the proposed schools budget this amounted to £201,007,000 and details of how this was distributed was provided in the report.

Appendix F to the report detailed the Department's capital programme which amounted to £39,614,211 in the 2012/2013 financial year.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

15. BREIFING PAPER REGARDING SCHOOLS BUDGETS 2012/2013

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which set out the headline information relating to the 2012-2013 schools budgets following the announcements by the Department for Education.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG);
- Pupil Premium;
- Formula Changes; and
- Devolved Formula Capital.

Members were also advised that a briefing had been organised in January, 2012 to discuss the changes in further detail.

A discussion ensued regarding the pupil premium and, in particular, the Government's decision to extend its reach to cover any child that had been registered for Free School Meals (FSM) in the past six years. Concern was expressed regarding how accurate and up to date the database was for those children who had Free School Meals and also whether this extension related to nursery children or was it just from reception age.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

16. TEACHERS PAY GRANT IN 6TH FORM

Ms. J. Edwards circulated a paper which set out the background relating to the reduction in Teachers Pay Grant in 6th Form schools.

Members were advised that the issue had been considered by the Secondary Head teachers and they recommended that the Authority should move to an abatement based upon current pupil numbers rather than historical data. Furthermore, a Working Group had also been established to look at the reduction in funding for 6th Form Schools in more detail.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 1.30 p.m. and finished at 2.30 p.m.)