

## SCHOOLS FORUM

MEETING, 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2011

### 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
Kathryn Wilkinson	-	Eagley Junior Primary School

### Representing Primary School Governors

Olive Fairhurst	-	Lord Street Primary School
Mike Doyle	-	Pikes Lane Primary School
Lynne Kay	-	Sharples Primary School
Neville Speakes	-	SS Peter and Paul 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
Florence Hill	-	UNISON

### Representing Nursery Schools

Ann Macleod	-	Susan Isaacs Nursery School
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### Representing Special Schools

Bill Bradbury	-	Rumworth Special School
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### Representing Roman Catholic Diocese

John Thorpe School	-	SS Osmund and Andrews Primary
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Representing 14-19 Partnership

Jonathan Steele	-	Firwood Special School
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Representing Academies

David Mole	-	Essa Academy
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Also in Attendance

John Livesey	-	Children's Services
David Smith	-	Children's Services
Julie Edwards	-	Children's Services
Claire Binks	-	Children's Services
Jan Robinson	-	Children's Services
Vicky Ridge	-	Democratic Services
Phil Deakin	-	St Catherine's Academy (observing)
Christopher Newman	-	Work Experience (observing)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Maureen Morrissey, Tania Lewyckyj and Councillor McKeon.

Mr. M. Doyle in the Chair.

## **5. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 were submitted and agreed as a correct record.

## **6. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman informed members that he had written to Irene Jackson thanking her for all her hard work and commitment to the Forum over a number of years as agreed by members at the last meeting. Following this an e-mail had been received from her expressing her thanks to the Forum for their kind words.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

## **7. DSG BUDGET OPTIONS 2012/2013**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which outlined the initial 2012/2013 Schools Budget Position and Budget Options for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

Members were advised that the DSG was allocated to each Local Authority via a Guaranteed Unit of Funding for each pupil. It was stated that this figure would not be known until the settlement was announced which was anticipated to be in early

December, however, it had still not been received. The report though did provide details of the required DSG increase in order to maintain current funding and meet demand pressures.

The report also put forward a number of proposed changes to the Delegated Budgets which had been recommended by the Formula Review Group and related to the following:-

- Change in funding of English as an additional language (EAL)

Primary Sector – 225 was the highest number of EAL pupils in a school, in Reception to Year 3 and it was suggested that the formula should provide for the following additional support in a school of these characteristics:

1 Teacher – Grade M6

1 Teaching Assistant – TA2

£5,000 for additional administration/translation

This would equate to £209 per EAL pupil in Reception to Year 3.

Secondary Sector – it was proposed that EMAG and INA funding pots should be combined and a new formula developed. This was currently being worked on and would be reviewed during 2012/2013 for implementation in April, 2013.

- Review of Sixth Form Abatement Calculation

It was explained that pupils in secondary school sixth forms were funded directly from the Young Peoples Learning Agency and the funding was reducing significantly. As a result, Headteachers from these schools had requested the Formula Review Group to investigate the areas of Needs Led Formula that linked with sixth form provision. The report stated that the Abatement calculation was deducted from the Needs Led Formula to represent costs within the formula that were double funded ie: should be funded from the YPLA grant.

Members were advised that the current abatement calculation was historic and required review and the report which was considered by the Formula Review Group was detailed in Appendix B to the report. The financial impact of the decisions to date on individual schools was a maximum grant of £82,000 and a maximum loss of £33,000.

- Teachers Pay Grant

It was explained that on the principles used to date this factor should be included in the abatement calculation, however, it was highlighted that the funding received from the YPLA for this purpose was ceasing. In view of this a decision needed to be made as to whether the DSG should fund this reduction in grant in order for the schools to be able to continue to fund the current level of teachers pay in sixth forms. Members were advised that as this was considered to be a policy discussion, it was proposed that all

secondary schools would need to be consulted and that further work be undertaken regarding the potential impact on other schools and the item be brought back to the meeting of the Forum in January, 2012.

With regard to the Centrally Held Budgets, the Services to Schools Sub-Group had also made a recommendation which sought approval from the Forum to agree the on-going funding of the External Funding Team as a centrally held pooled budget with immediate effect, upon which schools would receive the service free of charge and the focus of the team would revert to more strategic support across the whole Bolton School network.

Resolved – (i) That the revised formula for EAL pupils in the primary sector be approved.

(ii) That the proposed amendment to the sixth form abatement calculation be approved.

(iii) That the proposal to the use of Centrally Held budgets to fund the External Funding Team be approved.

(iv) That officers be requested to provide schools with the details and impact of all the options proposed in the report.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPACT OF ACADEMIES**

A joint report of the Directors of Children's Services and Corporate Resources was submitted which informed members of the financial impact of Academies on the Dedicated Schools Grant.

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

- Implication on Dedicated Schools Grant;
- Calculation of School Budget Share;
- Calculation of Local Authority Central Expenditure;
- DSG transferred to Academies; and
- Local Authority Block.

In conclusion, members were advised that the Council would need to work closely with schools who were converting to Academy status to effect TUPE staff transfer and any land transfer to ensure that no liabilities fall to the Council. It was also explained that the Executive Member had agreed that the Council should seek to recover any costs included in effecting the TUPE and land transfer agreements where appropriate from the schools. It was anticipated that this was likely to be between £3,000 and £5,000 for a primary school and more for a secondary school. A converting academy received a £25,000 start-up grant towards conversion costs.

A query was raised regarding the legality of the decision of the Executive Member in relation to TUPE and land transfer agreements and it was agreed that this would be investigated.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

**9. FEEDBACK FROM THE FORMULA REVIEW GROUP**

The Forum received a copy of the minutes from the Formula Review Group meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2011.

Resolved - That the minutes of the Formula Review Group be noted.

**10. CHANGE OF DATE OF MEETING**

Resolved – That the meeting of the Forum scheduled to take place in January, 2012 will now be held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 at 1.30 p.m. and not Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 as previously indicated.

**11. COMPOSITION OF THE FORUM**

A discussion ensued regarding the long term impact of Academies being represented on the Forum and it was stated that at present the situation was still unclear. However, the issue was due to be raised at the North West Forum on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 and feedback from this would be provided to this Forum at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2012.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 1.30 p.m. and finished at 3.00 p.m.)