

## SCHOOLS FORUM

MEETING, 25th JANUARY, 2013

### Representing Secondary School Governors

Joanne Murphy	Westhoughton High School
David Kay	Sharples Science College
Renee Mellis	Westhoughton High School
Paul McCarthy	Harper Green School

### Representing Primary School Head teachers

Sandra Kelly	Sunning Hill School
Janet Coysh	Chorley New Road School
Diane Bohan	St. Teresa's RC Primary
Mike Tonge	Prestolee Primary
Jo Briggs	All Saints School

### Representing Primary School Governors

Mike Doyle	Pikes Lane Primary School
Neville Speakes	St Peters and Pauls RC Primary
Lynne Kay	Sharples Primary
Janet Whitehouse	Church Road Primary School

### Representing Secondary Head teachers

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

### Representing Non-School Members

Malcolm Fullerton	Joint Unions
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### Representing Church of England Diocese

Tania Lewyckyj	St. James's CE Secondary
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### Representing Nursery Schools

Ann Macleod	Susan Isaacs Nursery School
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Representing 14-19 Partnership

Jonathan Steele

Firwood Special School

Representing Academies

David Mole

Essa Academy

Also in Attendance

David Smith

Children's Services

Claire Binks

Children's Services

Julie Edwards

Children's Services

Jan Robinson

Children's Services

Ian D Mulholland

Democratic Services

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Olive Fairhurst, John Thorpe, Councillor McKeon and Dr Livesey.

Mr. M. Doyle, Chairman.

**56. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 23rd November, 2012 were submitted.

Further to minute 53, Chairman's Comments, it was mentioned that the Constitution Group had still to meet.

**Resolved-** That the minutes of the last meeting be signed as a correct record.

**58. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

There were no comments by the Chairman.

**59. SECONDARY GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVE**

Julie Edwards reported that the outcome of the vacant Secondary Governor Representative election was that Paul McCarthy, Chairman of Harper Green School Governors had been elected to serve on this Forum. The Chairman welcomed Paul to the meeting.

In terms of the September, 2013 elections for Primary and Secondary Governor Representatives, it was reported that nominations would shortly be sought for those

Positions. The chairman also mentioned the current terms of office for other Governor Representatives.

**Resolved** – That the position regarding the new Secondary Governor Representative and the plans to seek nominations for the September election of new Primary and Secondary Governor Representatives be noted.

## **59. CONSULTATION ON SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM – NEXT STEPS TOWARDS A FAIRER SYSTEM**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which set out details of changes in School Funding and also summarised the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) position for 2013-14.

The report explained that the DSG was previously allocated to each authority via a Guaranteed Unit of Funding for each pupil. The DSG for 2012/13 was £219,942,000, as previously reported in September, 2012.

The new funding system split the DSG into three separate funding blocks,:

- Schools block;
- Early years block; and
- High needs block.
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The report went on to advise that the funding had been assigned to each block as follows, Schools Block, £181,972,071, Early Years Block, £12,914,125 and High Needs Block, £25,055,804.

The report went on to set out specific details in relation to the following matters –

- changes to the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2013/14;
- cost pressures;
- schools block in terms of funding formula, centrally retained items;
- high needs block; and
- early needs block.

David Smith also explained that the Department's submission had to be submitted to the EFA before going to this Forum owing to the cancellation of the last meeting but should further consideration be needed in respect of the Early Years Single Funding Formula, as the meeting of the Early years Sub Group had been postponed, then this could be fed into the Executive Cabinet Member meeting due to take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2013.

The minutes of the Formula Review Group held on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 were circulated together with the Local Authority funding reform Proforma and the full Schools budgets schedule, 2013-14.

The Forum in its deliberations referred to –

- the hospital funding element in section 3 of the report;

- issues around comparisons with other authorities regarding the factors on the proforma;
- the need for detailed discussions with respective school budget officers although the analysis on the changes would be sent out with the budgets;
- some schools would face significant financial challenges;
- in the early years block, one change around deprivation based on the location of the child and not the school setting; and
- matters around school milk provision and the need for Schools to inform Children's Services should they wish to opt-out.

**Resolved** – That the report be approved but that matters around a decision on the early years block be deferred until the next meeting, pending discussions at a meeting of the Early Years Sub- Group.

## **60. SURPLUS BALANCE APPLICATIONS**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which set out details of Surplus Balance applications which had been received from various Schools.

The report explained that schools were written to before Christmas setting out the same procedure, that if balances remained above the permitted level at 31<sup>st</sup> march, 2013 then any balance above would be withdrawn, unless this was pre-agreed.

The report went on to explain the detail concerning the nine returns from various schools.

The Forum in its discussions referred to -

- aided schools and VAT on capital;
- matters around the impact of future funding; and
- the practicalities of agreeing the surplus balance applications.
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**Resolved** – (i) That the report and the applications contained therein be approved.

(ii) That a detailed report be considered at a future meeting on the way forward regarding the practicalities of agreeing such applications.

(The meeting started at 2.00 p.m. and finished at 3.23 p.m.)