



# Minutes

1 Name of meeting

## Schools' Forum

Date and time

Friday 28 September 2012 – 9am

Venue

Medina College

Present

Janet Giles **JG**  
Jonathan Russell (Chair) **JR**  
Katherine Marshall **KM**  
Nathan Thomas (Vice Chair) **NT**  
Martin Reah **MR**  
Sue Holman **SH**  
Ingrid Ramsdale-Capper **IC**  
Gill Andrew **GA**  
Beverly Gilbert **BG**  
Roseleen Cullen **RC**  
Sarah Linington **SL**  
Issi Lambert (Minute Taker) **IL**

1.

### **Apologies:**

Roland White  
Cllr Dawn Cousins  
Penny Codd

### **No Contact**

David Whistance  
Sara Sheath

2.

### **Declarations of Interest**

None

3.

### **Schools Forum 2013-14 Funding Options – For Decision**

Paper was tabled. In depth discussions had taken place around funding formula model options, a decision needed to be made on the preferred option wanted by schools. Once a decision is reached then the chosen option will be cascaded in detail out to all Primary and Secondary Heads and governors. Schools' Forum had recommended option 3.

JG explained that further advice has been received from the EFA regarding the recovery of the 2011-12 Schools Budget deficit; previous advice was that the full Schools Block should be delegated and a request made to schools for dedelegation. The revised advice is that the deficit repayment should be top-sliced from the Schools Block before budgets are calculated but that the approval of the Forum is required before this can happen.

#### **FUNDING FORMULA**

**KM** Option 2 came back from Primary's on funding because it was a middle road and more favourable to them. A low attainment score of 78 points and below is more beneficial to all of us.

**NT** Option 3 came back from Secondary's on funding. They went

with our recommendation based on evidence from these meetings. Lots more discussion took place around dedelegation and KS3/4 AWPU's, key rationale was funding follows pupil through AWPU.

**JG** The figures currently supplied for each of the options are based on the full delegation of the deficit recovery and subsequent dedelegation of the amount required to be repaid in 2013-14. Will re-work options 2&3 to remove the dedelegation but two different formulas cannot be run so this will need to be discussed.

**JG** Decision needed on approval for top slicing from Forum or Secretary of State.

**KM** Primary fundamentally disagrees with it, a letter has been sent to Michael Gove to state this and have their voice heard on the subject. The bigger picture around the fact that we are not in control, salary, redundancies, pensions were such a huge amount of money, we were clear around deficits for closing schools but felt that it was difficult to take on financial responsibility of that. Point of principle that remaining schools are being left penalised where more and more is being asked of us financially and this is a significant amount of money at a very difficult time. **JG** can we have a copy of the letter you sent to Michael Gove.

**NT** We object to it also but have not taken that further.

**JR** At some point that money has to be paid back and LA have taken pragmatic view on how that top slicing is done. It is a bitter pill to swallow for Secondary also and Heads are not happy when some of those deficits accrued were before their time but accept that the LA's proposal to manage the repayments over 3 years makes it more manageable for schools. Are we able to make a decision.

**JG** As the vote is split, the professional associations wanted us to weight the voting according to pupil numbers but the authority felt that each school should have an equal vote. 41 Primaries have not accepted and 6 Secondary's have accepted and so the authority will appeal to the secretary of state.

**JR** Can it be couched on the impact it will have on competition bids from various trusts it will impact on our ability to deliver the terms agreed within competition bid.

**JG** We should have a decision from Secretary of State quite quickly. What do you want to do if he says no to top slicing?

**JR** We should have an extraordinary meeting.

General discussion took place which highlighted the danger of the whole amount being recovered next year.

### **Dedelegation**

Academy's and 5 other schools, Academy cannot dedelegate.

**JG** Amount delegated to the Academies is less than the actual costs so it would make sense for the Academies to hand back that funding in order to receive the correct amounts.

**NT** Majority decision from Secondary's they were happy to dedelegate money back

**KM** Primary yes also

**MR** Yes happy to dedelegate

### **Free School Meals**

**KM** Primaries agree to dedelegate

**NT** Ryde would like to buy that service back in, but no feedback from Sandown. **JG** Meeting with Shaheen.

### **Licences and Subscriptions**

**NT** Yes Secondary's happy to sign up but would like to know everything that it includes in writing. **JG** Explained that this budget represents the cost of the time spent by finance staff administering the licences and invoicing schools.

This does not apply to Academies as they hold their own licences.

**KM** Primaries want to dedelegate this.

### **Staff Costs Supply Cover**

**NT** Yes

**KM** Yes

**MR** Academies are in discussion about this and it is still in debate.

### **Support to Underperforming Ethnic Minority Groups and Bilingual Learners**

No dedelegation

### **Behaviour Support Services**

**NT** CTK not in favour but others were if it could be clarified what support they are getting and something put in writing.

**KM** Primaries said no. Primaries will set up a working party to set up provision.

**JG** The LA would not be able to provide this service just to Secondary schools but will clarify.

**NT** Could we know as soon as possible.

**SH** Behaviour support for Primary would look very different from Secondary.

**JR** Follow up once you have had these discussion

**JG** The Chief Executive has previously stated that if the budget is not dedelegated and the service does not continue, then it will be for schools to make their own arrangements. Any appointments made by schools may give local authority staff the right of TUPE.

**KM** Schools in difficulty? **JG** not needed.

**JG** I will move forward with this and let you know asap about behaviour and I will let you see a copy of letter I send to Michael Gove. As we have two different votes for the funding formula we may have to take the vote to elected members.

**JR** Thank you for all your work on this and the discussions that have taken place have been very open and honest.

4.

### **AOB**

**JG** Last summer Forum agreed to fund energy efficiency officer and he would like to come to next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012 **Action IL**

**to invite**

Will need to look at work on budgets for high needs, top up funding, special school budgets so I will introduce it in October. Bev Pennekett has been seconded to DFE and would like to come to November meeting **ACTION IL to invite**

Early Years single funding formula needs to be discussed.

High needs and Early Years are on the forward plan the Cabinet are meeting in January 2013.

Cowes is available for planning meetings on Fridays IL to liaise with Wendy Green and Lesley Franklin and fit JG & NT in. **ACTION IL**

Apologies in advance from Gill Andrew for 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012

5.

**Future Meeting dates & Venues – All meetings 9-11am:**

Friday 19 October 2012 - @ County Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Conference Room 1

Friday 30 November 2012 – @ County Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Council Chamber

Friday 11 January 2013 – @ County Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Council Chamber

Friday 15 March 2013 – @ County Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Council Chamber

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013 – @ County Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Conference Room 1

**Future Planning meeting dates @ Cowes Enterprise College:**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2012 8am – 10am

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2012 8am – 10am

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012 8am – 10am

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013 8am – 10am

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013 8am – 10am