



Minutes

Name of meeting

Schools' Forum

Date and time

Friday 20 January 2012

Venue

Cowes Enterprise College

Present

Cllr Dawn Cousins
David Whistance
Jonathan Russell
Katherine Marshall
Ingrid Ramsdale-Capper
Sara Sheath
Nathan Thomas
Roland White
Stef Gleeson on behalf of Sue Holman
Janet Newton
Penny Codd
Issi Lambert (Minute Taker)

1.

Apologies:

Gill Andrew
Urszula Topp
Iain Vickers
Beverly Gilbert
Janet Giles
Brenda Dyer
Phillipa Read

2.

Declarations of Interest – Sara Sheath

3.

Minutes of the last meeting – 25th November 2011

Add Penny Codd's apologies

4.

Matters Arising (For Discussion)

DC all boards now have representation so education now has a voice on all of these.

JR Reminded that all broadband issues now need to go through Kirstie Rann at County Hall in the first instance.

5.

Updates – Janet Giles

Education Funding 2012-13 (For Information)

Papers were issued which detailed the 2012-13 arrangements for Education funding. Some discussion took place regarding the tracking of pupils who have been eligible for FSM over the last 6 years in order to calculate the Pupil Premium Grant. Further information to be

presented at the next meeting.

Split Site Allowances (For discussion/Decision)

Paper issued and a lengthy discussion regarding the letter from the Chair of Finance from Christ the King College which asked the Forum to reconsider the decision to implement a minimum distance between sites in order for a school to be eligible for a Split Site Allowance. Some members expressed a view that the College had not maximised the opportunity to achieve savings by restructuring “back office” functions when the College was formed from the amalgamation of two middle schools. Other members however, considered that the College had a valid claim to receive a Split Site Allowance. The Church of England Diocese had asked their representative to give their view that the road between the two sites is not a main road and that in the Diocese’s view there is no degree of difficulty. The Diocese also felt that there were efficiencies to be made.

SS declared an interest as a governor from the College and was unable to take part in the vote. Other members abstained from voting but the overall majority of members voted not to change the criteria agreed in July 2011.

Checks were carried out with the authority’s Head of Democratic Services to ensure that a) substitutes could vote and b) the meeting was quorate. Both were confirmed.

Procurement Support for Schools (For Decision)

Paper issued and discussed. Concern was expressed about the way in which this support will operate and how schools will access it. Protocols for the operation of this support to be discussed at the next meeting. Members were also informed that the local authority would not support the appointment of an external company to provide this support, neither would the local authority officer be permitted to work with such a company. Further concern was expressed regarding the funding of the post and where it will come from – more information to be presented at the March meeting.

The proposal for the appointment of a Procurement Officer to support schools was approved.

6. **AOB**
None

7. **Future Meeting dates & Venues:**

- **Friday 9th March 2012 Medina College, Newport**
- **Friday 4th May 2012 Cowes Enterprise College**
- **Friday 6th July 2012 Medina College, Newport**

Meeting finished at 10.05am