



Minutes

Name of meeting	SCHOOLS' FORUM
Date and time	THURSDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2013 COMMENCING AT 9.00 AM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Nathan Thomas (Chairman) – Island Innovation Trust Gill Andrew – Secondary PRU Amanda Bitchenor – Chatterbox Day Nursery Roseleen Cullen – Island Day Nursery Sue Holman – St Georges Richard Marinelli – Cowes Enterprise College Katherine Marshall – Carisbrooke CE Primary Chris O'Connell – Christ the King Ingrid Ramsdale-Capper – Niton Primary Martyn Reah – Ryde Academy David Whistance – Federation of Shalfleet and Yarmouth Primaries
Officers present:	Janet Giles – Isle of Wight Council Maisy Green – Isle of Wight Council Simon Wiggins – Isle of Wight Council
Apologies	Councillor Dawn Cousins, Beverley Gilbert, Roland White

8. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, [11 January 2013](#) be confirmed.

9. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations received at this stage.

10. [High Needs Funding Arrangements For Mainstream and Special](#)

The reform of the education funding that was being carried out by government would mean that arrangements for funding High Needs pupils in mainstream and specialist settings would change significantly from April 2013.

Members were asked to approve the local authority's proposals for funding special schools and units, as well as High Needs pupils in mainstream schools in 2013/14.

Indicative budget statements for the two special schools and the four specialist units had been calculated and the outcome was issued to the relevant schools. Each place was funded at £10,000 for Element 1 (core Funding) plus element 2 (Additional Educational Support) and those attending specialist provision would attract Element 3 (top-up) funding. Minimum Funding Guarantee had dictated the level of top-up funding to be received by each setting.

The funding for pupils was historically banded according to the assessed level of need of each pupil; bandings had been expanded to form a system for top-up funding which would operate across the mainstream schools as well as for specialist provisions.

Under the new funding arrangements schools were required to meet the first £6,000 for additional educational support, the difference between £6,000 and the cost being met by schools (the first 10 hours of support) would be added to Schools Block and delegated to schools. This resulted in an increase of £873,748 to the Individual Schools Budget. The remaining devolved statementing budget of £1.12m would be available for allocation as 'top-up' funding during 2013/14. Therefore, it was proposed that schools could claim top-up funding for the High Needs pupils up to the level indicated in the child's statement, less the £6,000 already delegated.

At a recent Directors briefing for head teachers the Local Authority requested that volunteers took part in a task group. Regular up-dates of the work would be presented to the Schools Forum throughout the year.

Members were happy with the change, it was highlighted that some schools would be worse off under the new module and this was noted.

It was made clear that new legislation stated that funding could not be allocated individually. There was a suggestion that head teachers work together rather than in isolation.

RESOLVED:

THAT a decision would be made at the meeting due to be held on Friday, 15 March 2013.

11. **LA Block LACSEG – New arrangements**

The Principal Officer - Resources & Business Support highlighted the changes when a maintained school converted to academy status.

Academies became responsible for securing or providing a range of education services such as improving school attendance, preparing financial accounts and asset management. The Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG) was paid to academies to cover the cost of the services that local authorities provided centrally to maintained schools. The current LACSEG system was no longer sustainable and new arrangements would come into effect from 1 April 2013.

The Government had transferred the funding for the LA Block LACSEG services to the Department of Education (DfE) that in turn had created a separate non ring-fenced grant, Education Services Grant (ESG), to local authorities and academies. Which would be proportionate to the number of pupils they were responsible for.

To calculate level of ESG required for 2013/14 the DfE had started with the total 2011/12 planned expenditure as reported in S251 budget statements from all local authorities. The 2011/12 top-slice would then be deducted from the total that had also been deflated by the decrease in national formula grant; forecasted council tax requirement and council tax freeze grant levels.

The total ESG had then been divided by total pupil numbers to arrive at a per pupil level of funding. The per pupil funding units that had been used to calculate each local authority's allocation of ESG were as follows,

Mainstream Pupils - £116.46;
Special school planned places - £494.96; and
PRU Planned Places - £436.73.

Therefore when a mainstream school, special school or PRU became an academy, funding was removed from the ESG paid to the local authority.

The authority's formula grant allocation had been reduced by £2.4m in 2013/14 as a result of the transfer of funding to the ESG. The level of funding that the authority was expecting to receive in 2013/14, taking account of all known academy conversions was £1.9m.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report be noted.

12. [School Funding Formula 2014-15](#)

Members' were advised of the Education Funding Agency's (EFA's) work plan for the coming months and what would be required in preparation for the 2014/15 financial year.

The EFA's funding reform team would analyse the formulae submitted in January 2012. They would work with other local authorities to gain a wider understanding of the issues and difficulties encountered while preparing the new funding formula, calculating school budgets under the new arrangements.

It was made clear that Schools and the Forum would be consulted on any proposed changes with agreement on the final 2014/15 indicative formula that would be submitted to Cabinet in October 2013 for approval. The authority would receive details of the verified October Census data during December 2013, with the budget settlement figures being announced towards the end of December 2013.

There was a question as to whether the forum could be provided with the overview and final report for the Indicative Formula. It was agreed that this would be circulated, along with that of the South Coast, to all members following the conclusion of the meeting.

An additional meeting would be arranged for a date in June 2013 with members being advised of the final date in due course.

CHAIRMAN