

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

Wednesday, 29 November 2017  
Robertson House, Stevenage

## ATTENDANCE:

<b>Chair</b>	Alan Gray
<b>School Members</b>	Richard Haynes (Vice-Chair), Anna Greethan, Brian Frederick, Frances Manning, Jan Liversage, John Grubb, Matt Gauthier, Nick Rowlands, Paul Rosen, Robert Fielden, Robert Smith, Samantha Jayasuriya, Sara Lalis, Tony Fitzpatrick, Tracy Prickett, Zoe Hancock
<b>Non-School Members</b>	Tim Hutchings
<b>Substitutes</b>	Helen Ackerman (deputising for Karen James) Martin Brown (deputising for Alison Saunders)
<b>Officers</b>	Simon Newland, Catherine Tallis, Jonathan Burberry, Andrew de Csilléry, Kate Leahy, Brenda Dennett
<b>Apologies</b>	Alison Saunders, Judi Billing, Jo Hopkins, Mark Watkin, Denisse Skewis, Dave Allen
<b>Observing</b>	Cllr Terry Douris, John Grubb, David Williams (NUT)

## 1. Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Francis Manning and Matt Gautier were congratulated on their recent elections as Academy representatives and welcomed to the Forum.

Francis Manning advised that she did not attend as a substitute at the last meeting.

Minutes were agreed and taken as an accurate record.

## 2. School Budget 2018/19

Jonathan Burberry advised the Forum of changes to the budget since September, and the latest draft budget for 2018/19 was presented. The updated DSG funding, following the NFF announcement, has been incorporated into the figures and budget pressures and savings have been updated.

Clarification was provided on Item 5.2. The monitor for 2017-18 has moved from forecasting an underspend at year end to forecasting an overspend.

It is anticipated that the proposed Primary behaviour allocations will be presented at the next Forum meeting. Headteachers have asked for more information about the Secondary behaviour allocations shown in annex C of the paper. It is therefore expected that the Secondary behaviour allocations will be brought back to the February Forum.

Forum agreed all the recommendations in section 3.1 of the paper.

<b>VOTE</b>					
<b>For</b>	18	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	-

### **Minimum Funding Guarantee Exceptions and Pupil Number Variations**

Jonathan Burberry presented this paper requesting Forum's support for MFG exceptions and pupil number variations for 2018-19.

Disapplication requests need to be submitted to the DfE by 30 November 2017.

As one of the MFG exceptions related to Samuel Ryder academy, Matt Gauthier declared an interest as Headteacher of Samuel Ryder, took no part in the discussions and abstained during the voting.

Forum agreed all the recommendations in section 3.1 of the paper, including option 2 in relation to Samuel Ryder.

<b>VOTE</b>					
<b>For</b>	17	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	1

### **3. Schools Funding Formula Consultation**

Jonathan Burberry introduced this paper requesting Forum's support to consult with schools on two options for allocating the additional resource available in 2018-19. The consultation will also include the proposals supported by Forum at the September meeting (i.e. a 0.5% increase in pupil led funding, a reduction in looked after children funding to offset the Pupil Premium increase and a MFG level of -1.5%).

It was suggested that a hybrid of the two options might be appropriate. Simon Newland responded that a hybrid model could be brought to the January meeting following the consultation, where members might wish to make a decision round that possibility in the light of views expressed in and the outcome of the consultation.

The Forum supported consulting with schools on the two options for allocating additional resources which are outlined in the paper and including a question in the consultation on a hybrid option.

<b>VOTE</b>					
<b>For</b>	18	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	-

### **4. Approval of centrally retained budget 2018/19**

Catherine Tallis presented this paper seeking the Forum's approval for the holding of a number of central budgets in 2018-19.

It was noted that the amount of funding allocated through the new central school services DSG block is less than Hertfordshire's current spend on these services. Some savings have been identified and taken into account in this paper but there will be a need to return to Forum in January with an amendment to align the budget to funds available.

There was a question about the budget for admissions. It was explained that most admissions work is common to both schools and academies.

Forum agreed for 2018-19 the central budgets listed in table 1 of the paper.

VOTE					
<b>For</b>	18	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	-

## 5. Core Education Services De-delegation – Simon Newland

Simon Newland presented the results of the de-delegation consultation and subsequent recommendation to de-delegate funding to support activity in relation to maintained schools at a rate of £26 per pupil. Forum agreed the basis of the consultation and the principle of the financial model underpinning the consultation in September 2017. The response rate was high with 98% of respondents answered "yes" to supporting the principle that HCC should continue to support schools to remain as Maintained; 75% supporting the proposal to de-delegate £25 per pupil for HfL's activities; and 76% to de-delegate £1 per pupil to cover the costs of education leadership and management in relation to Maintained Schools

HCC and HfL were thanked for by the primary phase for engaging positively to shape the de-delegation proposals. The primary phase requested that positive engagement continues round both the appointment of the Education Manager appointment and reporting outcomes from de-delegated funding.

### Recommendations:

#### i) School Improvement - £20/pupil

VOTE (primary phase, secondary phase)					
<b>For</b>	7	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	-
<b>For</b>	1	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	-

#### Statutory Duties - £5/pupil

VOTE (all phases and special)					
<b>For</b>	9	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	1

#### School and ESC pupil (place) weighting:

VOTE (all phases and special)					
<b>For</b>	9	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	1

Principle of two years

<b>VOTE (all phases and special)</b>					
<b>For</b>	11	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	-

ii) Financial Model

<b>VOTE</b>					
<b>For</b>	18	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	-

iii) Early Years DSG

<b>VOTE</b>					
<b>For</b>	18	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	-

iv) CSSB DSG

<b>VOTE</b>					
<b>For</b>	18	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	-

De-delegation for Senior Education Manager

<b>VOTE (all phases and special)</b>					
<b>For</b>	11	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	-

**6. Other de-delegated budgets – Catherine Tallis**

Catherine Tallis presented a paper detailing other proposed de-delegated budgets for 2018-19. Prices had been frozen for Free School Meal Eligibility and Trade Union Facilities Time given financial pressures schools were facing. The contingency de-delegation was proposed to be reduced.

**Recommendations:**

<b>For (P)</b>	7	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	-
<b>For (S)</b>	1	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	-

**7. Growth Fund Criteria**

Kate Leahy and Brenda Dennett attended the meeting for this item.

The Forum:

- supported the proposed amendments to the Growth Fund set out in the paper,
- approved the 2018-19 criteria for the Growth Fund detailed in annex A of the paper.

<b>VOTE</b>					
<b>For</b>	18	<b>Against</b>	-	<b>Abstain</b>	-

## **8. Recommissioning an Integrated Speech and Language Service: update paper**

Discussion took place at the High Needs sub-group and the paper was returning to Forum for agreement and to ask whether any colleagues wish to join the working group.

Frances Manning advised the meeting that there had been further amendments to this paper following the CS Reference Group meeting which had taken place earlier in the day. It was therefore agreed that the item be deferred to the January meeting.

## **9. Forward Work Programme 2017/18**

The forward work programme was noted, with the changes referred to in the minutes above.

### **Any Other Business**

Alan Gray advised the meeting that this was Zoe Hancock and Samantha Jayasuriya's last meeting. On behalf of the Schools Forum, Alan thanked them for their contributions to the group.

### **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Forum will be held on:

Date: Wednesday 17 January 2018  
Time: 1.00pm - 4.00pm  
Venue: HDC, Robertson House, Stevenage