



## Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council People Directorate

# Minutes BARNSLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FORUM, HELD ON THURSDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2015, AT HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC AND CHURCH OF ENGLAND 3-16 SCHOOL

#### PRESENT

<b>Headteachers:</b>	Nick Bowen Jo Nolan Dave Whittaker	Headteacher Representative Headteacher Representative Headteacher Representative
<b>Governors:</b>	Adrian England John Gostelow Bob Krause Jackie Milliner Mark Pawson Michael Sanderson	School Governor Representative School Governor Representative School Governor Representative School Governor Representative School Governor Representative School Governor Representative
<b>Special Schools</b>	Molly Beevers	Special Schools Representative
<b>Barnsley MBC:</b>	Councillor Andrew Millner	Barnsley MBC Representative (Observer)
<b>Early Years Service:</b>	Linda Mathison	Early Years Service Representative
<b>Trade Unions:</b>	Roy Bowser	Trade Unions Representative
<b>Officers:</b>	Margaret Libreri  Josh Amahwe  Keri Kaye Anna Turner Richard Waterhouse  Shafeek Khan	Service Director (Education, Early Start and Prevention) People Directorate, Barnsley MBC Strategic Finance Manager (People Directorate) Barnsley MBC People Directorate, Barnsley MBC People Directorate, Barnsley MBC Finance, Assets and Information Services, Barnsley MBC People Directorate, Barnsley MBC

#### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr Bowen welcomed Members of the Barnsley Schools Forum to today's meeting and asked that each Member, together with officers present, introduce themselves.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Jane Gilmour and Nina Sleight.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Mr Gostelow declared a personal interest relating to Items 7 and 8 of today's agenda.

## **4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM, HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2015**

It was noted by the Forum that during the discussion on increasing top up funding at Greenacre School, the minute had been incorrectly recorded and should have stated that:

*"The decision taken by the Schools Forum was contradictory and detrimental to the children at Greenacre."*

### **RESOLVED**

1. That the proposed amendment to the minutes, concerning Greenacre School, as indicated above, be undertaken and the minutes of the meeting of the Forum, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, be re-submitted for approval at the next meeting.

## **5. MATTERS ARISING**

No matters arose during consideration of the minutes of the previous meeting.

## **6. SCHOOLS BUDGET OUTTURN POSITION (2014/15) AND USE OF DSG UNDERSPEND**

Mr Amahwe presented a report on the 2014/15 outturn position concerning the delegated schools budget and those budgets which were centrally retained. Reference was made to the following:

- The number of surplus balances
- Financial assistance to schools to help cover redundancy costs
- High Needs Block funding
- Early Years Block Funding and the arrangements being undertaken to meet the increasing number of places for 2 year olds as set out by central government
- Proposals for the use of DSG resources to be carried forward, including reference to current pressures and changes in the EFA's approach to the allocation of funding for specific blocks.

In noting Mrs Nolan's comments over the need for greater detail and transparency concerning the financial assistance afforded to schools on redundancy costs, Mr Amahwe clarified that as far as Athersley North Primary School was concerned, no payment was made to the school for this reason.

### **RESOLVED**

- 2 (a) That the final outturn position for the schools delegated budget and centrally retained budget be noted.**
- 2 (b) The Schools Forum agrees the proposals for the use of carry forward DSG balances as indicated in the report, subject to the additional information to be contained in the report referred to in Minute 2 (d) below.**

- 2 (c) That a report on the outcomes of the review of significant schools surpluses be submitted for consideration at the next meeting of the Forum.**
- 2 (d) To assist with the allocation of High Needs Block funding, a report on options for meeting increased demand for provision at Springwell PRU and alternative provision, be submitted for consideration at the next meeting of the Forum.**
- 2 (e) A report on the trend in schools concerning assistance with redundancy costs, during the period 2013/14 – 2015/16 also be submitted for consideration at the next meeting.**

## **7. SCHOOLS BUDGET (2015/16): LATEST UPDATE**

Mr Amahwe presented a report which outlined the current financial position of maintained schools in the Borough. This included reference to the variation in the schools funding settlement, originally announced in December 2014 and which, during March 2015, amounted to a shortfall of £41.4 million. The variation had been accounted for in the proposed schools funding model for 2015/16.

Details concerning the proposed use of Schools Block Funding; the High Needs Block Budget, together with the Early Years Block and allocation of Pupil Premium Grant, were set out.

Mr Amahwe also gave an overview on the total net surplus balance of schools, which had significantly reduced when compared to the outturn position during the previous year. This continued to reflect the significant cost pressures faced by schools across the Borough. Falling pupil numbers was a significant reason behind the deficit positions which had been reported by 3 schools and Mr Amahwe confirmed that the local authority was working with these schools in order to take the necessary remedial action through their deficit plans.

### **RESOLVED**

- 3 (a) That the overall funding position for schools in the Borough, during 2015/16, as iterated by the EFA, in March 2015, be noted.**
- 3 (b) The financial positions of local authority maintained schools as indicated in each school's budget submission, also be noted.**

## **8. CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

Mrs Mathison provided the Schools Forum with an update on the likely outcomes of the 2015 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. This included reference to the following:

- Uptake of places and any gaps in meeting demand, in each of the 6 Area Council localities.
- Use of funding allocation(s) for providing early years placements for 2 year old children

### **RESOLVED**

- 4. That the Schools Forum agrees, in principle, for £300,000 (including the local authority's 'Trajectory Funding' allocation (2014/15) be carried forward into 2015/16 as part of ensuring sufficient early years education places for children aged 2-4 years.**

## **9. DfE COMPARISON OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES SCHOOL BLOCK FUNDING FORMULA**

Mr Amahwe presented a report which compared Barnsley's position on the use of the schools block funding formula in comparison to the National Average. The report was based upon a review undertaken by the DfE which was, now, looking at introducing a national formulae.

Mr Amahwe compared Barnsley's performance to the National Average on a range of factors within the formulae, including the following:

- Age weighted pupil unit rates (AWPU)
- Prior attainment
- Deprivation
- Children in care
- EAL pupils
- Pupil mobility
- Notional SEN budget
- Growth Fund
- Falling Pupil Rolls fund

Mr Amahwe highlighted areas where improvements should be considered in order to close the gap with the National Average. This included those areas where savings could be made without impacting on outcomes.

### **RESOLVED**

**5 (a) That the findings of the DfE Review be noted by the Forum.**

**5 (b) The Schools Forum approves the recommendations of the Barnsley Formula Funding Review Group for the following areas to be reviewed in order to close the gap with the National Average:**

- **Proposed increase to the secondary schools AWPU KS3/KS4 funding proportion.**
- **Review the proportion of current funding accorded to the 'Prior Attainment' factor and to take into account any impact on the notional SEN budget.**
- **To review the use of the 'Deprivation' factor with a view to identifying other options.**
- **Proposed increase in the Pupil Growth Fund for 2016/17 in view of increasing demand for primary school places.**

**5 (c) That a report on the above reviews be submitted to the next meeting of the Schools Forum.**

## **10. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK: PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR TARGETED/EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING**

Ms Libreri and Ms Kaye reported verbally on an approach to optimise High Needs Block funding and at the same time improve capacity, by developing a local, peer led system of support to pupils with SEN, whilst at the same time, helping reduce demand at the higher level of the spectrum. A change to the previously approved use of the set aside funding of £300k was proposed. The alternative proposal was to use the funding instead to build expertise and capacity that will allow schools to release expert staff to support other schools and to look at models or programmes that could be funded to drive this objective.

Ms Libreri believed that such a system change was required and should the Forum be receptive to this peer led approach, she felt that there was sufficient expertise within local schools with which to develop the capacity required.

Questions emerged from Members of the Forum, concerning details and the impact upon school allocations/budgets for 2015/16 as a number of schools would have allowed for this additional funding within their budget plans for the year.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 6 (a) The Schools Forum agrees to use £100k to develop and build expertise and capacity within the system and that proposals or options on how this can be achieved be submitted for the Forum's consideration.**
- 6 (b) That any proposal should be based on a local, peer led approach which identifies and meets the needs of SEN pupils and that this be developed for the initial consideration of the Barnsley Alliance Board.**
- 6 (c) Given the impact on schools budget plans for 2015/16, the Schools Forum agrees to allocate £200k of targeted funding in accordance with previous approvals (subject to the tightening of the criteria in terms of expectations on how the funding will be applied and demonstration of impact and outcomes)**

#### **11. SCHOOLS CAPITAL MAINTENANCE AND BASIC NEEDS PROGRAMME (2015/16)**

Mr Waterhouse outlined the schemes which had been provisionally included in the Barnsley Schools Capital Programme for 2015/16. These included measures aimed at tackling the shortfall of school places in tandem with the findings of the Barnsley Local Plan, together with improving school buildings and conditions, including via the Locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP).

#### **RESOLVED**

- 7 That the Schools Forum notes the Schedules for (a) Basic Needs Capital Allocations (b) Schools Condition Capital Schemes and (c) Schemes within the LCVAP, for 2015/16**

#### **12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

No issues were raised by Members of the Forum.

#### **13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FORUM**

The proposed agenda items for the next meeting of the Forum were identified. This would include a report on the outcomes of a review of the membership of the Forum.

#### **14. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Mr Bowen advised that he would arrange for the Clerk to the Forum to circulate a schedule of the Forum's meetings to be held during 2015/16. Before closing today's meeting Mr Bowen thanked members for their attendance and, also, thanked the staff at Holy Trinity Catholic and Church of England 3-16 School for their hospitality in hosting the meeting.