



# Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Children's Services Directorate

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## BARNSLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

### MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE FORUM HELD ON THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022

#### PRESENT

##### Headteacher Representatives

Paul Haynes and Vicky Harrison

##### Governor Representative(s)

Peter Bell, Adrian England, Sandra James and Michael Sanderson

##### Special and Alternative Education Provision Representative

Molly Beever and Josh Greaves

##### Early Years Provision Representative

Melanie Szoke

##### 14-19 Years Education Provision Representative

Neil Wilkinson

##### Officers

Nina Sleight	Service Director (Education, Early Start and Prevention) Barnsley MBC
Josh Amahwe	Strategic Finance Manager (Core Services Directorate) Barnsley MBC
Anna Turner	Interim Joint Head of Education and Partnerships (Barnsley MBC)
Shafeek Khan	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Formal apologies were submitted by Ms Baggley, Mr Crook, Mrs Gorton, Mrs Gostelow and Mr Morgan

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Representatives from the Forum declared their interest in relation to matters being considered during Agenda Item 6 of today's meeting.

## **3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM**

The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were approved as a correct record

## **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

No matters arose through considering the minutes of the previous meeting.

## **5. REVIEW OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM**

Ms Sleight presented a report on the outcomes of the recent review of membership of the Forum after which the Chair welcomed newly appointed members at today's meeting.

### **RESOLVED:**

- **That the outcomes of the recent review of membership be noted and further nominations be sought with a view to filling any vacancies particularly in the Schools Group.**

## **6. ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM**

The Chair outlined arrangements and invited nominations from members present for the role of Vice-Chair of the Schools Forum.

### **RESOLVED:**

- **That Mr Greaves be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum for a period of two years.**

## **7. REPORTS**

### **Schools Budget (2021/22) Year-end Outturn**

Mr Amahwe presented a report on the final, year-end outturn position on the schools' budget and commented on the following:

- Schools Delegated DSG Budget
- An analysis of school balances and carry-forward arrangements for maintained schools.
- Centrally retained school budgets
- Management of DSG deficits including the DSG (High Needs Block) Management Plan

**RESOLVED:**

- **The Forum notes the final outturn position for the schools' delegated budget, particularly the carry forward of balances for maintained schools and the reported deficit on the centrally retained DSG budgets.**

Schools Budget (2022/23) Latest Position and Evaluation of Risks

Mr Amahwe proceeded to present the latest position in relation to this year's schools budget and referred to the following:

- The latest confirmed funding allocations for the Schools, Early Years, High Needs and Central Schools Services Blocks. .
- The current position concerning school balances.
- The financial risks in each Block, together with mitigating actions upon which discussion emerged. These actions would include the submission by maintained schools of detailed 3 year budget forecasts each year. There would be no contingency for budget deficits during 2022/23
- The deficit and continuing cost pressures within the High Needs Block

**RESOLVED:**

- **The Schools' Forum notes the latest DSG funding for schools during 2022-23 as confirmed by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), together with the financial positions of Barnsley's maintained schools and the identified financial risks against the schools DSG budgets for the year.**

Scheme for Financing Schools (2022/23)

Mr Amahwe also presented a report on proposed changes to the Borough's Scheme for Financing Schools. The only change related to Section 3.7 of the Scheme concerning borrowing by schools in which reference to the *Sulix* Scheme had been removed as this initiative had now ended.

**RESOLVED:**

- **The Schools' Forum notes the proposed mandated change, together with its implementation and adherence with the revised Scheme.**

Formula Funding: Split Site Criteria

Mr Amahwe's final report outlined the reasons why a local authority's funding formula can include an optional funding factor to afford an allowance to schools which operate through multiple sites as part of supporting such schools with unavoidable additional costs.

Mr Amahwe outlined the proposed eligibility requirements through which schools could receive an allocation via this proposed funding factor. This was likely to be based as follows:

- Primary schools – £29,450 (based on 25% of the Lump Sum factor - £117,800)

- Secondary schools - £58,900 (based on 50% of the Lump Sum factor - £117,800)

Based upon current estimates, Mr Amahwe's report identified the number of schools in the Borough which could be eligible for funding under the proposed local funding factor. Introducing the factor into the local schools funding formula was likely to have a neutral impact upon schools' funding allocations, particularly given the application of the Minimum Funding Guarantee.

Discussion arose on whether or not the proposals in Mr Amahwe's report under estimated the number of schools which could be eligible. Ms Sleight suggested that an evaluation take place to identify a number of potential outcomes, based upon concerns raised at today's meeting and for this to inform the inclusion of the split-side funding factor in the consultation with schools later this year.

**RESOLVED:**

- **That the proposed eligibility and funding criteria for schools with split-sites form part of the Local Authority's consultation with schools later this year, on proposed changes to the local funding formula for schools.**

**8. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM (2021/22)**

Ms Sleight presented the Forum's first annual report which provided a retrospective look at the Forum's work as part of ensuring schools and settings were equipped with the resources required to provide a quality education in schools and settings during 2021/22. The annual report also included the Forum's proposed forward programme of the issues it will consider within its role and responsibilities, during 2022/23.

**RESOLVED:**

- **That the Forum's annual report and forward programme be brought to the attention of schools and settings as part of promoting the Forum's work**

**9. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

No issues were raised at today's meeting.

The Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum expressed his gratitude to members for their attendance and contributions at today's meeting.

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(Signed by the Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum)