

Schools Forum Decision Statement

Meeting: Friday 5 November 2021

Published: Tuesday 9 November 2021

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies received from Deborah Parfitt, Patsy Peres, Lesley Birch, Cllr Simone Taylor and Joe Mc Crossan.

Jonathan Culpin Chair of the Forum declared a non-statutory disclosable interest under the Growth Funding section of the Schools Budget Setting 2022- 23 report, in that the Local Authority had agreed to provide growth funding for a school for which he was responsible.

Adrian Ball Chief Executive Officer, Diocese of Ely declared a non-statutory disclosable interest under the Growth Funding section of the Schools Budget Setting 2022- 23 report, in that the Local Authority had agreed to provide growth funding for Pathfinder and Ermine Street Primary Schools.

Richard Spencer Executive Principal (Secondary) Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust (CMAT) declared a non-statutory disclosable interest under the Growth Funding section of the Schools Budget Setting 2022- 23 report, in that CMAT operates Northstowe Secondary College.

2. Schools Forum Minutes – 16 July 2021

It was resolved:

to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2021 as a correct record.

3. Minutes Action Log

It was resolved:

to note the action log.

4. Schools Forum Appointments

It was resolved to note:

- That Lesley Birch, Executive Principal - Cambridge Primary Education Trust, Carin Taylor, Executive Headteacher - Staploe Education Trust and Duncan

Ramsey, CEO - Aspire Learning Trust have been confirmed as General Academies Representatives on the Schools Forum.

- That Mark Vickers CEO Olive Academies has been confirmed as an Academies Alternative Provision Representative on the Schools Forum
- That Alex Pearson, Headteacher Homerton Early Years Centre will continue to attend Schools Forum meetings as substitute for Claire Palmer, Headteacher, Huntingdon Nursery School, the Maintained Nursery Schools Representative.

5. Schools Budget Setting 2022-23

Funding Formula

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Support the proposed LA approach to align the Cambridgeshire Schools Funding Formula Factors with the National Funding Formula rates for 2022/23. This will be subject to final approval at CYP Committee in January.
- b) Support the proposed LA approach to apply the distance taper to the sparsity factor to maximise the number of schools who qualify for additional funding in 22/23. This will be subject to final approval at CYP Committee in January.

High Needs Block Transfer

It was resolved by majority to:

- d) Approve a block transfer between the Schools Block and High Needs Block of 0.5% - (circa £2.1m – final amount to be confirmed on receipt of final DSG allocations) – to support the following activities:
 - i. Transformation Programme
 - ii. SEND Contingency Fund
 - iii. ASD/SEMH/ADHD Training
 - iv. SENCO Training
 - v. Support for Additional Provision

Subject to the Local Authority returning to Schools Forum at the next meeting, having undertaken further discussion with relevant representative bodies, with a more detailed, fully costed plan, and, furthermore, the impact of which is reviewed, monitored and evaluated on a regular basis by Schools Forum.

Central School Services Block

It was resolved unanimously to:

- e) Approve the continuation of the Contribution to Children's Services of £1m.
- f) Approve the continuation of the £733k to support early intervention family workers.
- g) Approve the £583k subsidy towards the costs of the Schools Broadband Contract.
- h) Approve the continuation of the £508k to support the Admissions Service.
- i) Approve the continuation of the £3k to support the Servicing of Schools Forum.
- j) Note the proposed budgets for the national copyright licence arrangements, retained duties funding and residual balance. Final figures will be presented at the January meeting of Schools Forum for approval.

Education Functions and De-Delegations – Maintained Primary only

It was resolved unanimously to approve:

- k) The continued retention of £10 per pupil from maintained schools for services specifically provided to maintained schools.
- l) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Contingency.
- m) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Free School Meals Eligibility.
- n) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Maternity and Paternity Cover.
- o) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Trade Union Facilities Time.

Growth Funding and New Schools

It was resolved unanimously to:

- p) Approve the revised Growth Funding and New School Funding Policy to apply to 2022/23 only.
- q) Approve the centrally retained growth fund at a level of £1.75m (compared to £2m in previous years).
- r) Note the proposed variation to pupil numbers. Final numbers will be presented to Schools Forum in January.

6. Schools Forum Agenda Plan Update

It was resolved to:

Note the agenda plan.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed to take place on Wednesday 15 December 2021.

Notes:

- (a) Statements in larger type indicate additional resolutions made at the meeting.

For more information contact: Tamar Oviatt-Ham Telephone: 01223 715668/e-mail:
tamar.oviatt-ham@cambridgeshire.gov.uk