

Cambridgeshire Schools Forum – Minutes

Date: Friday 14 January 2022

Time: 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Venue: Virtual meeting

Present:

Academy Primary - Susannah Connell

Early Years Reference Group – Deborah Parfitt

Maintained Primary - Liz Bassett, and Guy Underwood

Maintained Nursery – Alex Pearson

Maintained Special School - Joanne Hardwick

Maintained Pupil Referral Unit – Leah Miller

Maintained Governor - Paul Stratford (Vice-Chairman)

Other Academy Sector Appointments – Adrian Ball, Christopher Bennett, Lesley Birch, Ryan Kelsall, John King, Richard Spencer, Duncan Ramsey, Carin Taylor, Mark Vickers, Alex Pearson and Jon Culpin (Chairman)

Cambridgeshire County Council - Councillors C Daunton, B Goodliffe and S Taylor.

Officers - Jonathan Lewis, Service Director Education, Michelle Rowe – Democratic Services Manager, Monika Balazs – Democratic Services Assistant and Martin Wade, Strategic Finance Business Partner.

14. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies received from Simon Bainbridge, Sasha Howard, Patsy Peres, Deborah Parfitt, Jon Duveen, Andrew Reed, Jeremy Lloyd and Rob Turner.

Apologies for lateness received from Councillor Bryony Goodliffe.

No declarations of interest received.

15. Schools Forum Minutes – 5 November 2021 and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2021 were approved as a correct record subject to the correction noting that Carin Taylor was present at the meeting.

The Forum noted the minute action log.

16. Proposed Future Schools Forum Dates 2022-23

The Forum received a report detailing the need to schedule future meetings from July 2022- July 2023 period.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Approve the dates for future forum meetings as set out section 3 of the report.

17. Schools Funding Update – January 2022

The Forum received a report and a presentation ([Appendix A](#)) detailing the Schools Funding Update. The report provided an update on the:

- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and other funding
- Schools Block and local funding formula, as well as the illustrative school budget for each school
- High Needs Block, Notional SEN and Contingency proposals
- Central Schools Service Block
- Early Years Block funding proposals
- Next steps

Forum welcomed the plans to scale back the proposed Block Transfer and Growth Fund to meet the affordability gap and therefore fund schools at the

base National Funding Formula (NFF) rates without the need to apply a funding cap.

Members sought clarification on whether the Supplementary Grant of around £12m would be allocated to schools in addition to the DSG. The Strategic Finance Business Partner confirmed that it would be in addition.

In relation to the High Needs Block update the Chair informed the Forum that the establishment of the Sub-Group which was overseeing and monitoring the Invest to Transform Fund was underway with the following membership: Joanne Hardwick, Liz Bassett, Christopher Bennett and Adrian Ball. He thanked the above members for their participation and encouraged members from other sectors to join the Sub-Group in order to widen representation to all sectors. The Chair informed the Forum that the Invest to Transform Fund report would be presented at the Forum's March meeting to allow sufficient time for in-depth discussions to take place.

One question was raised regarding the decreased funding for the Admission Service. The Strategic Finance Business Partner advised that the published funding amount in Appendix A to the report for 2021/22 was incorrect and advised that the level of funding remained the same at £467k.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) comment on the local budget proposals as set out in the presentation.
- b) approve the planned Centrally Retained amounts for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A to the report.

18. Schools Forum Agenda Plan Update – January 2022

The Democratic Services Manager confirmed that there were no additions to the Forward Plan since publication.

It was resolved to:

Note the agenda plan.