



Minutes

BARNSLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FORUM HELD ON THURSDAY, 24th
JANUARY 2019, AT KIRK BALK ACADEMY**

PRESENT

Headteacher Representatives

Dean Buckley, Antoinette Drinkhill and Kirsty Wordsworth

Governor Representative(s)

Adrian England, Mark Pawson and Michael Sanderson

Special Schools Representative(s)

Molly Beever and Dave Whitaker

Early Years Provision Representative(s)

Linda Mathison

Local Authority Elected Member Representative(s)

Councillor Andrew Millner and Councillor Sarah Tattersall

14-19 Years Representative

Dave Benbow

Other Representatives

Ayesha Baggley

Officers

Josh Amahwe

Strategic Finance Manager (Core Services
Directorate) Barnsley MBC

Alison Brown

Service Director (Human Resources and
Business Support) Barnsley MBC

PRESENT (continued)

Officers (continued)

Richard Lynch	Head of the Barnsley Alliance for School Improvement
Michael Potter	Service Director (Business Improvement and Communications)
Shafeek Khan	People Directorate

1. ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE FORUM

Mr Sanderson advised that Mr Bowen had submitted his apologies and as Vice-Chair, he had been invited to chair today's meeting of the Forum.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Formal apologies had been received from Mr Bowen, Mrs Gilmore, Ms Libreri, Ms Smith and Ms Wilks.

3. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTEREST

Representatives of the Forum declared their interest concerning Agenda Items 5 (a-d) concerning Schools Budgets.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE FORUM

At the request of Mr England, Mr Sanderson agreed to defer consideration of the first agenda item, namely a report on the outcomes of the recent review of the Forum's membership, to enable the minutes of the Forum's previous meeting to be considered, first.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Barnsley Schools Forum, held on 18th October 2018, be approved as a correct record.**

5. MATTERS ARISING THROUGH CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Mr England enquired why no reference was made in the minutes concerning the recent review of the Forum's membership, on inviting the Diocese of Hallam to make a nomination to serve on the Forum.

RESOLVED

- 2. That the Clerk to the Schools Forum writes to the Diocese of Hallam inviting a nominee to become a member of the Forum.**

6. REVIEW OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BARNSELY SCHOOLS FORUM

Mr Lynch presented a report on the outcomes of the recent review. Mr Sanderson invited attendees to introduce themselves through which new members of the Schools Forum, attending for the first time, were welcomed to today's meeting.

Mr Lynch, briefly commented on the arrangements for the nomination and election of the next Chair of the Forum which would take place at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

- 3. That the outcomes of the recent review of the Forum's membership be noted.**

7. SCHOOLS BUDGETS

(a) 2018/19 Schools Budget: Latest Update

Mr Amahwe presented his latest report on the 2018/19 schools budget outturn. Reference was made to the following:

- Overall DSG Budgets
- Schools Delegated DSG Budgets, including schools balances.
- Centrally Retained Schools Budgets, including the High Needs Block and Early Years Block.

Mr Amahwe responded to questions raised by Mrs Beever, Ms Drinkhill and Mr Pawson, on the reasons for the changes in school balances reported, increasing expenditure in the High Needs Block, together with how surpluses are treated within bottom line data.

RESOLVED

- 4. The Schools Forum notes the latest projected outturn position for the schools' delegated budget, together with the deficit currently projected across centrally retained DSG budgets, particularly in relation to the High Needs Block.**

(b) Schools Funding Settlement (2019/20)

Mr Amahwe reported upon recent confirmation of the financial settlement for schools in the Borough. The total DSG allocation for Barnsley during this period would be £180.5 million which equated to an increase in DSG of £6.9 million compared to the updated 2018/19 position. Mr Amahwe commented upon the factors leading to the increase and responded to queries, concerning the import and export adjustment in the High Needs National Funding Formula and the perverse impact of the Minimum Funding Guarantee on the deficits of financially struggling schools.

RESOLVED

- 5. The Schools Forum notes the Borough's schools funding settlement across the 4 funding blocks which will form the basis for determining the budget for schools and settings, together with confirmation of other funding made available for schools, during 2019/20.**

(c) Schools Budget (2019/20)

Schools Block

Mr Amahwe presented the first of three reports on the proposed schools budget, following confirmation of the funding settlement. Reference was made particularly to the following:

- Schools Block Funding Envelope Under The National Funding Formula For 2019/20
- Changes To The Schools Funding Formula: Funding Factors
- Proposed Transfer Of 1% Of Funding From The Schools Block To The High Needs Block

Mr Amahwe then outlined proposals to de-delegate funding from maintained primary and secondary schools to be retained centrally and managed by the Local Authority in order to meet contingencies, teaching staff cover and eligibility for free school meals. This would be subject to the agreement of members of the Forum representing the primary and secondary phases.

RESOLVED

- 6 (a) That the de-delegated funding proposals, outlined in Paragraphs 20-22 of Mr Amahwe's report be approved for Local Authority maintained primary schools and the level of funding be deducted from the maintained primary schools funding allocations for 2019/20.**
- 6 (b) Due to the lack of representation on behalf of the Local Authority maintained secondary phase, the Forum requests that the head teachers of Local Authority maintained schools in the Borough, should be directly consulted on whether or not the level of funding for these de-delegation proposals should be deducted from the maintained secondary schools allocations for 2019/20 and for their response to be reported to the next meeting.**

Early Years Block

Mr Amahwe presented the second of his three reports on the Schools Budget (2019/20) concerning funding arrangements for the Early Years Block. Mr Amahwe confirmed that Barnsley's provisional settlement for this Block would be £14.4 million and the Forum noted the specific allocations for the following:

- Three and 4 year old pupils, including the early years universal entitlement and the 'Pass Through' requirement to providers and settings.
- Children aged 2.
- Early years pupil premium
- Disability Access Fund

The Forum also noted further actions which the Local Authority would undertake during 2019/20 in terms of notifying schools and early years providers/settings of their allocations, together with updating its forecasts on total participation hours and its impact upon the Early Years Single Funding Formula, following the January 2019 Schools Census.

RESOLVED

- 7. The Forum notes the provisional DSG funding settlement for the Early Years Block, together with arrangements for allocating early years funding to providers and settings aimed at 3-4 year old children, during 2019/20.**

Central Schools Service Block (2019/20)

Mr Amahwe also presented proposals for the central schools service block, including reference to ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments. Mr Amahwe proceeded to advise the Forum that its specific approval was sought in agreeing the DSG funding contributions to the following statutory, retained functions of the Local Authority, based on the same level as in the current year:

- Admissions = £275,000
- Schools Forum administrative costs = £7,000
- Termination/pension costs = £75,000
- Asset management = £251,000
- Education welfare = £208,000
- Other statutory and regulatory functions = £41,000

RESOLVED

8. The Forum agrees the aforementioned DSG funding contributions.

Young People's Skills and Enterprise Team

The Forum took the opportunity to consider Mr Benbow's report which took into account, firstly, the impact which funding, ascribed to the Young People's Skills and Enterprise Team, had made in engaging employers, raising young people's aspirations and developing employability skills and work readiness, including among post 16 learners with special educational, particularly complex needs, during 2018/19.

To support his Service's during 2019/20 Mr Benbow had requested funding amounting to £21,000 to continue supporting vulnerable young people aged 16 or over to achieve their potential by ensuring learners in high needs placements make a successful transition to 'Good' or 'Outstanding' post 16 provision, as judged by Ofsted.

RESOLVED

9. The Forum agrees a DSG funding contribution of £21,000 to the Young People's Skills and Enterprise Team to support its work, during 2019/20.

Barnsley Alliance For School Improvement

The Forum also considered Mr Lynch's report on how the proposed DSG funding contribution would support the work of the Barnsley Alliance in improving the quality of teaching and learning standards in the Borough. Responding to Mr England's query on whether or not the funding allocation proposed was £450,000 or £400,000, Mr Amahwe and Mr Lynch clarified that the £450k, requested, would be used for the following:

- £300,000 to support sector-led school improvement activity and risk resilience.
- £100,000 to support organisational costs.
- £50,000 to support improvements in the achievement of EAL pupils.

RESOLVED

- 10. The Forum agrees a DSG funding allocation of £450,000 to the Barnsley Alliance to support the range of its responsibilities.**

Supporting The Education Of Looked After Children

In considering this request for funding, the Forum expressed its serious concern over the absence both of a formal report and the failure of an officer from the relevant service to attend today's meeting.

RESOLVED

- 11. The Forum agrees a DSG funding allocation of £200,000 to support the education of Looked After children in the Borough on the strict condition that a report on this matter be submitted to its next meeting.**

Trade Union Facilities Agreement

Mrs Brown presented her report on options for the funding of the Trade Union Facilities Agreement with Local Authority maintained schools, during 2019/20. Mrs Brown advised that, due to the prevailing pressures on the Local Authority's Budget, de-delegated funding would need to reduce to £45,000, leaving a funding gap of £62,000 which it was proposed should be met through additional contributions from schools.

Discussion arose over the increasing conversion of schools into academies, which had been a factor in creating the current funding gap. Members also heard from Ms Baggley, the National Education Union's representative on the Forum on the importance of maintaining full-time convenors, together with the pressures they were facing as a result of capacity issues.

Both Mr Pawson and Mr Sanderson commented that such a proposal was unsustainable beyond 2019/20, particularly since it was recommended by the Forum at its meeting, held on 18th January last year, that a discussion on trade union representation across the whole of the local schools system take place at a future meeting. On this, Mrs Brown confirmed that discussions had taken place with some academies on this matter and a review was taking place of the Trade Union Facilities Agreement; the role of convenors and the scope for supporting the whole of the local schools sector. Mrs Brown added that the outcomes of this review would be reported by this time next year.

RESOLVED

- 12 (a). The Forum agrees for Option 1 in Mrs Brown's report, namely for the funding gap of £62,000 in the provision of the Trade Union Facilities Agreement, during 2019/20, to be met through additional contributions by maintained schools.**
- 12 (b). That approval for Option 1 of the report is conditional upon the outcomes of the review of the Trade Union Facilities Agreement, including recommendations towards a more sustainable system for supporting the local schools system, be submitted for consideration at a future meeting of the Forum.**

8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No matters were raised at today's meeting.

9. SCHEDULE OF REMAINING MEETINGS (2018/19)

The date of the next meeting of the Forum was noted. Mr Sanderson then, thanked members of the Forum for their attendance and contribution and expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the staff at Kirk Balk Academy for their hospitality in hosting today's meeting.

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Signed by the Vice-Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum