

<p>THE SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS FORUM MINUTES OF THE MEETING Thursday 26th January 2012</p>
--

1. Attendance and Apologies

See Annex A.

2. Declaration of Interests

Members were asked to declare any pecuniary or other interests they might have that were greater than the interests of other members of the Forum in any matter on the agenda for discussion.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 8th December 2011

These were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising from Meeting of 8th December 2011

The Clerk reported that the changes to the Balance Control Mechanism previously reported were being written up prior to any required consultation.

5. Council's Draft Budget 2012-13

It was noted a background Information Report had been circulated to members so as to give the context in which the Schools' Budget is being set.

6. Carbon Reduction Commitment 2012-13 - Charges to Schools

6.1 A report by the Council's Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Team had been circulated prior to the meeting. Melissa Williamson introduced the report that set out the detail of the changes to the CRC Scheme and explained that any charges and costs associated with the scheme will now be passed through to schools.

6.2 There were 3 options that the Schools Forum was asked to advise the Local Authority (LA) on.

- a) To top slice the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) with whatever the total cost was, expected to be equivalent to £6.80 per pupil.
- b) For each school to bear their own cost
- c) A hybrid approach of a) and b) above

6.3 Nick Tildesley expressed some concern that the figures quoted for some schools in the Annex attached to the report may not be correct. Fay Hammond confirmed that the Council was writing to the DfE regarding the fact that those charges relating to academies were to be picked up indirectly by the maintained schools in the LA as the DSG for distribution would be reduced.

6.4 The Schools Forum voted on the motion that schools should be responsible for their own charges.

Those in Favour 12, Those Against 1, Abstaining 0

7. School Budgets Funding Formula Changes 2012-13

- 7.1 This report, introduced by Alex Goddard, dealt with the distribution by formulae of the remaining funding previously received by schools as Standards Funds. This had been discussed at the previous meeting of the Schools Forum and advice had been given by it to the Local Authority.
- 7.2 School Development Grant (SDG) –Specialist Schools Funding and High Performance Specialist Schools funding. Following comments at the last Schools Forum clarification had been sought from the DfE and other Local Authorities. The Chair asked that schools who receive this funding should be reminded that it is meant to cover outreach work as well as work in the receiving school. Virginia Bridge asked if this was monitored at all, Irene Bishop confirmed that it was not.
- 7.3 The School Forum was then asked to agree with the LA proposal to distribute the funds in 2012-13, as they did in 2011-12, with those schools who are eligible receiving the same cash value. The Schools Forum then voted on the LA proposal.

Those in Favour 12, Those Against 0, Abstaining 1

- 7.4 SDG – Leadership Incentive Grant – The Schools Forum was reminded that although previously known also as a Social Deprivation fund in fact it was not distributed on social deprivation factors. The LA proposal was to distribute the funds in 2012-13 as they did in 2011-12 with those schools who are eligible receiving the same cash value. Mark Parsons asked which schools were entitled to this; Fay Hammond confirmed that it was secondary schools. The Schools Forum then voted on the LA proposal.

Those in Favour 11, Those Against 0, Abstaining 2

- 7.5 Advanced Skills Teachers (ASTs) – Irene Bishop asked that those ASTs that the LA contributed funding to and had an element of their time on out-reach work that schools should be reminded of that. Jim Eshelby confirmed that there was a rigorous process for becoming an AST; Nick Tildesley said that the Schools Forum should be looking to see what value they added and how they supported the strategic priorities.
- 7.6 Mark Parsons asked about what happened to the funding when the existing ones left the schools, it was confirmed that the money released would go back each year into the overall funding for distribution to all schools. The Schools Forum then voted on the proposal to distribute the funding as in previous years, i.e. to those schools with the original ASTs that were previously funded in 2011-12:

Those in Favour 12, Those Against 0, Abstaining 1

- 7.7 Excellence in Southwark. This had been discussed in detail at the previous meeting and following advice from the Schools Forum The LA was proposing to retain this funding centrally, classified as a “Combined Budget” but was proposing to change some of the schools that were previously “banker schools” i.e. they held the funds for distribution to the local schools in the relevant clusters.

The schools Forum then voted on the proposal;

Those in Favour 13, Those Against 0, Abstaining 0

- 7.8 Diploma Support Grant, which is allocated to schools with students that are studying diplomas in year 11 as they were considered more expensive courses. The LA proposed that as there was no longer a requirement to run these courses then funding should be distributed using secondary AWPUs for years 7 to 11. The Schools Forum felt that there may be schools still doing them and they should have notice that the funding will cease. The Schools Forum then voted on the LA proposal:

Those in Favour 0, Those Against 13, Abstaining 0

- 7.9 The Schools Forum then discussed what could happen in 2012-13 and felt that it should be retained as discreet funding for the intended purpose and then cease in 2013-14. This will alert those who do provide them that the funding will cease and so can make alternative arrangements. The Schools Forum then voted on this proposal:

Those in Favour 13, Those Against 0, Abstaining 0

- 7.10 Fay Hammond then explained that with Excellence in Southwark, money was allocated to banker schools and as such that became part of their school's funding for the year. Should that change in following years the rules of the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) were such that their budgets would be protected at the higher level even though they did not actually spend the money themselves. This was obviously unfair.

- 7.11 As a consequence the LA wished to apply to the DfE to seek an exemption to the MFG rules so that should that funding change in future years the monies could move to the new schools. Those in Favour 13, Those Against 0, Abstaining 0

8. Dedicated Schools Grant 2012-13

- 8.1 This report had been circulated with the agenda and set out details of the levels of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2012-13 but also the resulting Schools Budget allocations. This involved a number of statutory decisions from the Schools Forum.
- 8.2 Fay Hammond took members through the guiding principles that the LA was applying in the distribution of funding to schools and that which it retained centrally. The Schools Forum had seen this as part of the report back on the review of the Schools Forum by the LA and the Schools Forum members prior to Christmas. These were noted and Nick Tildesley re-iterated that it should be demonstrated how each fitted into the overall strategy framework of the LA.
- 8.3 Fay Hammond explained that as the DSG is based on an estimate of the number of pupils that will be counted as part of the January 2012 Pupil Census, then what the Schools Forum has before them is the best estimate known at the time. It was always difficult projecting Early Years numbers in the Private/Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sectors.

8.4 The projected gross figure for the DSG was £222.499m and gave Headroom, i.e. monies still to be allocated from within that DSG of £400k. This was noted by the Schools Forum.

8.5 The increase in the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), i.e. those funds which are distributed to schools, due to budget pressures, was due to a number of factors which the Schools Forum then scrutinised. These were:

- a) Expansion of temporary and existing permanent class expansion in primary schools as set out in Appendix A to the report
- b) Changes in funding for some special schools highlighted at the previous meeting and are in advance of the Review of special schools funding. Detail was shown in Appendix B of the report
- c) The Resource Base Funding for the ASC (Autistic Spectrum Condition) Resource Bases in mainstream schools (Appendix C) partly due to an increase in places and also a change in base funding
- d) Phase 2 of the transfer of the operation of After School Clubs from the LA to individual schools (Appendix D)
- e) The cessation of the Council applying a 10% “top up relief” to the Business Rates of Foundation schools.

These were noted and the Schools Forum then voted on these proposed changes to the Individual School Budget Share:

Those in Favour 13, Those Against 0, Abstaining 0

8.6 The Schools Forum then examined Section 4 of the report which set out an overview of the budgets held centrally but allocated out to schools over the year. These included:

- i) Formula Errors
- ii) Schools Specific Contingencies for in-year statements of SEN
- iii) Maternity Reimbursement
- iv) Advanced Skills Teachers (ASTs) – centrally retained
- v) Combined Budgets
- vi) Schools in Difficulty, this is now combined with the Preretirement and Redundancy Costs
- viii) Early Years Formula Funding

8.7 Fay Hammond highlighted that the LA was proposing for 2012-13 not to retain the central funding for ASTs and the amount held for Combined Budgets was to be reduced by £88,000. All the other budgets were at the same level as 2011-12. Following a question from Nick Tildesley, Kerry Crichlow confirmed that the detail of the spend on Schools in Difficulty is presented to the Schools Forum as part of the Outturn detail each year.

8.8 The Schools Forum then voted to agree the budgets held centrally and allocated to schools throughout the year:

Those in Favour 13, Those Against 0, Abstaining 0

8.9 The Schools Forum then moved on to examine the LA proposals for allocating funds to the “combined budgets” in 2012-13. These are budgets outside of the DSG but which the Schools Forum has to agree to the Local Authority moving the funds to from the DSG to the relevant budget.

- 8.10 It was noted that there were no proposals for 2012-13 regarding the Reading Festival and the New Technology Centre and that a proposal relating to the Headteachers' Executive will be brought to the March 2012 meeting of the Schools Forum
- 8.11 The proposals reviewed were as follows:
- i) £15,000 for the Southwark Cathedral Education Centre (Appendix G)
 - ii) £7,000 for the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (Appendix H)
 - iii) £251,000 Excellence in Southwark management team (Appendix I)
 - iv) £75,000 Critical Incident support (Appendix K)
 - v) £50,000 Schools Audit a reduction of £40k (Appendix L)
 - vi) £87,900 Health & Safety (Appendix M)
 - vii) £100,000 School Nursing total paid to individual special schools
- 8.12 The Chair reminded members that most of these had been previously funded by the Schools Forum or had been previously brought by the LA to the Schools Forum to seek advisory guidance on whether to formally make a proposal.
- 8.13 Members wished that if the Schools Forum were to agree to these proposals then recipients should be reminded that the funding is for one year only. The Schools Forum then voted on these proposals:
- Those in Favour 13, Those Against 0, Abstaining 0
- 8.14 Centrally Held DSG Budgets. Fay Hammond explained that the Schools Forum agreed transitional arrangements for some 2011-12 ex Standards Funds, namely E-Learning, Primary and Secondary Achievement, and Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) to support the associated central staffing structures. These have now been restructured and therefore the funds, £740k, can be released to schools.
- 8.15 The LA prefers to allocate them using the previously agreed principles for allocating the i) E-Learning via AWPU/Places, ii) via pupils from ethnic minorities and EAL for EMAG, iii) a lump sum, per pupil value, deprivation and attainment data for the Primary and Secondary Achievement strategies. The other option would be to use straight AWPU/places.
- 8.16 The Schools Forum felt that in the main, the principles were still valid and voted to support the LA's proposals:
- Those in Favour 10, Those Against 0, Abstaining 3
- 8.17 The Schools Forum then reviewed the budget changes for the centrally held budgets for 2012-13 which showed a reduction of £377,000 compared to 2011-12. These were agreed unanimously.
- 8.18 Schools Forum Members then debated how the extra £444,000 should be distributed to schools as the LA had no preferred option. However a question was raised as to whether it should be delegated or retained and added to the central contingency. It was agreed that the proposal to delegate to schools should be put to the vote:
- Those in Favour 9, Those Against 2, Abstaining 1

- 8.19 The Schools Forum then discussed the options suggested by the LA of distributing this additional funding, including SEN and social deprivation as well as by AWPU. The preferred option of AWPU/Places and PVI budgets emerged as the most fairest and easiest to follow; this was then put to the vote:

Those in Favour 12, Those Against 0, Abstaining 0

9. Pupil Premium 2012-13 Information Report

Noted

10. Nursery Pupil Funding

It was agreed that Sharon Donno and Virginia Bridget would represent the Schools Forum on the Local Authority's review of nursery pupil funding.

11. Dates of Next meetings

These were noted

Annex A**SCHOOLS FORUM ATTENDANCE SHEET**26th January 2012**VOTING MEMBERS**

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PRESENT
Nick Tildesley	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Vacancy	Primary School Headteacher	
Teresa Nouri	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Virginia Bridge	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Liz Robinson	Primary School Headteacher	Apologies
Maddy Webb	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Mark Parsons	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Grainne Grabowski	14-19 Representative	Yes
Darren Coghlan	Vulnerable Children	Apologies
Pat Tyler	Diocese Board	Yes
Gillian Reeve	Early Years – Private/Voluntary and Independent Settings	Apologies
Sharon Donno	Nursery School Headteacher	Yes
Michael Davern/Betty Joseph	Teachers Unions	MD Yes BJ Apologies
To be nominated	Support Staff Unions	
David Sheppard	Academy	Apologies
Vacancy	Academy	
Elaine Garlick	Primary School Governor	Yes
Canon Grahame Shaw	Primary School Governor	Apologies
Teresa Neary	Special School Headteacher	Yes
Dr Irene Bishop	Secondary School Headteacher	Yes
Sister Anne-Marie Niblock	Secondary School Headteacher	Yes

Senior Officers in Attendance

Kerry Crichlow	Assistant Director
Fay Hammond	Head of Children's Services Finance
Pauline Armour	Assistant Director - Apologies
Mike Smith	Assistant Director - Apologies
Merril Haeusler	Deputy Director - Apologies
David Cross	Clerk

Apologies from Councillor McDonald