



# Buckinghamshire County Council

## Minutes

## Schools Forum Consultation Group

AGENDA ITEM: 5

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSULTATION GROUP (SUB-GROUP OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM) HELD ON TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2003 IN ANNEXE B, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 3.00PM AND CONCLUDING AT 4.45PM.**

### PRESENT

Jenny Wainwright	The Misbourne School
Michael Moore	Catholic Diocese of Northampton
Colin Roberts	NASUWT
Ted Brown	Sir William Borlase School

Officers	Alan Mander	Assistant Head of Finance
	Jane Brown	Accountancy Manager
	Sue Butt	Democratic Services Officer

### APOLOGIES

Mike Barrie	Heritage House School
Catherine Hinds	Hughenden Infant School

### CONSULTATION - REVENUE BUDGET 2004/05

The Group discussed the consultation exercise that would need to be carried out with schools (before Christmas) in respect of the Revenue Budget for the next financial year, 2004/05.

The group considered the overall financial position of schools and discussed the principles behind the distribution/ allocation of possible headroom and the three options listed in circular 063-03/04. Following discussion, the Group unanimously AGREED and endorsed a fourth funding principle. This was:

**If there was flexibility in headroom, to allocate an above minimum guarantee to all schools within the county and distribute the remaining amount to those schools/ sectors identified as in most need.**

It was AGREED that this option would be included in the consultation paper with the endorsement of the Group together with the three options already listed.

It was noted that the Funding Group (sub-group of Schools Forum) were currently looking at how areas of need could be identified and in particular how possible headroom funding could be distributed if it were to be targeted at specific areas of need.

It was noted that the consultation paper would need to be sent out to schools by mid November to allow 6 weeks (schools weeks) response time.

### **NEWLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS**

The Group considered details on how the Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) funding should be allocated to schools. The Group AGREED to the recommendation:

**Use the number of NQTs in each school, (fte) in September 2003. This number would be multiplied by £3,365 (£3000 [2002/03] Standards Fund allocation \*1.095\* 1.025).**

### **ETHNIC MINORITY/ LOW ACHIEVEMENT**

The Group considered the newly agreed criteria for allocation of funding to schools for ethnic minority and low achievement.

Following discussion, the Group AGREED with the recommendation that:

**At a time of the Secretary of State stipulating minimum increases per pupil in funding in 2004/05, now is not a time to be redistributing existing funds. The stated intention of the Secretary of State is for stability in 2004/05, compared to 2003/04.**

**Lower prior attainment is taken into account in the present formula for all pupils – ethnic minority or not.**

It was AGREED that due to the complexities of measuring numbers of ethnic minority pupils, a report on funding issues from the Minority Ethnic Travellers Achievement Services (METAS) should be brought to a full Schools Forum meeting in 2004 for consideration.

### **NEXT MEETING**

It was AGREED to cancel the meeting scheduled for 11 November 2003 to allow preparation of the draft consultation letter by Alan Mander/ Jane Brown to then be distributed to the Group via e-mail for comment.

Next meetings of the Schools Forum

- Additional meeting in November to be set
- Tuesday 2 December 2003 at 1.30pm, Green Park Training Centre, Aston Clinton