



Schools Forum Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on Tuesday 18 January 2022 in MS Teams Virtual Meeting, commencing at 1.30 pm and concluding at 2.55 pm.

Members present

Ms J Antrobus, Ms J Cochrane, Ms P Coppins, Cllr A Cranmer, Ms S Cromie, Ms J Freeman, Mr A Gillespie, Mr E Hillyard, Mr D Hood, Mrs D Rutley, Mrs E Stewart, Ms K Tamlyn, Mr B Taylor, Ms J Watson, Ms S Bayliss, Ms C Beevers, Mr H Beveridge, Mrs G Bull, Mr J Carter, Ms J Divers, Mr G Drawmer, Ms C Glasgow, Mr S James, Ms N Lovegrove, Ms H Slinn, Ms F Smalley and Ms E Williams

Agenda Item

1 **Chairman's Welcome**

The Vice Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and reminded all of the basic etiquette for a MS Teams meeting.

2 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from:

Mr K Patrick- Chiltern Hills Academy
Mr S Sneesby- Kite Ridge School
Mr R Page- Chalfont Community College

3 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 07 December 2021 were **AGREED** as an accurate record.

The actions from the meeting held on 07 December 2021 were reviewed and **AGREED** as completed or carried forward as below.

Action	To be Actioned By	Completion Date
To update the attendance list from the last meeting	Ms C Beevers	Next Schools Forum Meeting.
To draft a letter to MP re funding issues	Mr K Patrick/ Mr S James	ASAP
To pull together placement numbers for a 3-5-year time period	Ms E Williams/Ms H Slinn	Next Schools Forum Meeting & DSG Management Group

5 Update from the SFFG

Ms K Tamlyn- Chairman of the Schools Forum Funding Group gave an overview of the SFFG meeting. The action notes were appended to the minutes.

6 School Budget Proposals 2022-23

Ms E Williams, Head of Finance (Children's Services)- Buckinghamshire Council gave an overview of the report provided.

DSG Allocation 2022-23

Recommendations

- a) To recommend that Buckinghamshire Council sets the overall Dedicated Schools Budget at £532.816m in line with the funding allocation announced on 16th December 2021.
- b) To recommend that the supplementary grants announced by the Department for Education (DfE) are allocated to the Schools Budget in accordance with the conditions of grant (final allocations to be confirmed in spring 2022).
- c) To agree the allocation of funding to mainstream schools based on the local funding formula for schools agreed in December 2021, updated for the October 2021 census data. This recommendation has been updated to include the supplementary recommendations:
 - i. To consider the revised methodology for the calculation of Low Prior Attainment Funding within the local funding formula for infant schools based on the previous year's average data for those schools rather than the county average.
 - ii. To agree which model should be used to calculate school budgets for 2022-23
- d) To confirm the criteria for the Growth Fund in 2022-23.
- e) To consider the savings proposals detailed in Appendix 5 to reduce Central Schools Services Block expenditure in line with reductions in funding.
- f) To agree the Central Schools Service Block budgets for 2022-23 as detailed in Appendix 6.
- g) To agree the budget for the High Needs Block in 2022-23 as detailed in Appendix 7.
- h) To agree the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) for 2022-23.

Resolved

- a) Schools Forum **RECOMMENDED** that Buckinghamshire Council sets the overall Dedicated Schools Budget at £532.816m in line with the funding allocation announced on 16th December 2021.
- b) Schools Forum **RECOMMENDED** that the supplementary grants announced by the Department for Education (DfE) are allocated to the Schools Budget in accordance with the conditions of grant (final allocations to be confirmed in spring 2022).
- c) Schools Forum **AGREED** the allocation of funding to mainstream schools based on the local funding formula for schools agreed in December 2021, updated for the October 2021 census data. This recommendation has been updated to include the supplementary recommendations:
 - i. Schools Forum **CONSIDERED** the revised methodology for the calculation of Low Prior Attainment Funding within the local funding formula for infant schools based on the previous year's average data for those schools rather than the county average.
 - ii. Schools Forum **AGREED** which model should be used to calculate school budgets for 2022-23
- d) Schools Forum **CONFIRMED** the criteria for the Growth Fund in 2022-23.
- e) Schools Forum **CONSIDERED** the savings proposals detailed in Appendix 5 to reduce Central Schools Services Block expenditure in line with reductions in funding.
- f) Schools Forum **AGREED** the Central Schools Service Block budgets for 2022-23 as detailed in Appendix 6.
- g) Schools Forum **AGREED** the budget for the High Needs Block in 2022-23 as detailed in Appendix 7.
- h) Schools Forum **AGREED** the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) for 2022-23.

7 Revenue Budget Monitoring

Ms E Williams, Head of Finance (Children's Services)- Buckinghamshire Council gave an overview of the report provided.

Recommendations:

Schools Forum is asked to note the revenue budget monitoring forecast at the end of December (Period 9)

Resolved:

Schools Forum **NOTED** the revenue budget monitoring forecast at the end of December (Period 9)

- 8 DSG Management Plan - Update from DSG Spending Review Group**
Verbal update provided by Ms E Williams, Head of Finance (Children's Services)- Buckinghamshire Council and Mr S James, Director for Education- Buckinghamshire Council.
- 9 AOB**
There were no items of AOB.
- 10 Date of Next Meeting**
Tuesday 22 March 2022- 1.30pm
MS Teams Virtual Meeting

Schools Forum Funding Group Actions – 4 January 2022

General points – overall report

Actions:

- Clarity to be provided on whether the supplementary grants are ringfenced. Action EW to include comment in the report
- Clarity to be provided on whether this funding will be taken away later and schools would be expected to budget for it. This information may not be provided from the Government till the Spring. Action EW to include a sentence in the report

Section A: Schools Block

Actions:

- Table 2 – typo as say December 2022 Action EW to amend report
- Paragraph 4.3 of the table to be changed to further options will be brought to the Schools Forum. Action EW to update para 4.3
- Growth Funding: A sentence should be added to the report saying that this would be kept under review and discussed with the DfE to make sure schools are financially viable in their pre-set up period. Action EW to amend section 5
- Reference was made to Birtton School and numbers of pupils for 22/23. Action JC to check agreed pupil numbers prior to Schools Forum

Section B: Central Schools Services Block (decision required by Schools Forum on details)

Actions:

- EW and SJ to review the wording in the report on proposed savings and to update
- Appendix 5 – remove the notes column. Action EW

Section C: High Needs Block

Actions:

- Report to be updated to include Period 9 (Q3) budget monitoring. EW to update report
- It was agreed that the paper on High Needs should be a supplementary paper to be submitted on 14 Jan after the DSG Spending Review Group meeting. Report to include proposals to meet demand, address cost pressures of Health and Social Care Levy and priorities for investment to support savings. Action EW/HS to finalise proposals to present to DSG Spending Review Group.

Section D: Early Years Block

- Further clarity was needed in the report regarding there not being a separate grant for private providers to cover Health & Social Care. Action EW to update report.

Agenda for Schools Forum

- Update from Simon and Gareth to be taken off the agenda.
- Budget Monitoring – still required as provided information for the budget report
- Budget report
- Update from DSG – could be verbal report.