

EAST RIDING SCHOOLS' FORUM
AGM
28 NOVEMBER 2019

PRESENT:

School Members

Representing Head Teachers of Primary Schools: Mrs S Woolhouse and Mr P Richardson
Representing Head Teachers of va/vc Primary Schools: Mrs J Cattle
Representing Governing Bodies of Primary Schools: Mr D Stork and Mrs C Bunker
Representing Governing Bodies of va/vc Primary Schools: Mr D Shepherd
Representing Head Teachers of Secondary Schools/Academies: Mrs S Bone, Mr G Chappell
and Mr R Harrison
Representing Special Schools: Mr A Hall
Representing Nursery Schools: Mrs C White

Non-School Members

Representing Teacher Trade Unions: Mr D Walenta
Representing Early Years Sub-Group: Mrs V Pooleman

Observers

Councillor J Abraham

Advisers

Ms D Myers, Head of Children and Young People, Education and Schools
Mrs G Bristow, Financial Planning and Reporting Manager

Support Officers

Mr J Fisher, Finance Manager
Miss C Atkinson, Schools Management Accountant
Miss J Dale, Senior Committee Manager

The meeting was held at County Hall, Beverley.

851 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN - Agreed - That David Stork be appointed Chairman until the next Annual General Meeting of the Forum.

852 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN - Agreed - That Claire Bunker be appointed Vice-Chairman until the next Annual General Meeting of the Forum.

853 APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Gary Cannon, Sharon Japp (Secondary Heads), Eoin Rush and Darren Stevens (ERYC).

854 MEMBERSHIP - It was noted that there were two Secondary Governor vacancies and Derek Shepherd representing governing bodies of the va/vc primary sector.

855 MINUTES - Agreed - That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING -

856 Developing the Schools Forum - Further to minute 848, Derek Shepherd referred to a question he had asked at the previous meeting which was for the paperwork to be circulated at least 10 working days before the meeting to give Members longer to consider and consult. The constitution refers to five days and it was agreed that we would continue with the five clear days. Members also asked for the paperwork to be sent in electronic format.

Agreed - That the paperwork be sent electronically with paper copies available at the meeting.

857 THE CONSTITUTION - It was noted that some members and governing bodies of the School Forum had not been receiving the minutes. Email addresses would be checked and schools reminded to pass minutes to the Chair of their Governing Body.

858 APPRENTICESHIP LEVY - REVIEW OF CURRENT PROGRESS - A report had been submitted by Anna Bennett, Senior Organisational Development Officer on the current situation. It was reported that currently there were 44 staff undertaking apprenticeships across the school's workforce and a further 24 recently enrolled with training providers and schools are encouraged to use levy funds. The Council has appointed a temporary Organisational Development Officer specifically to work with schools to maximise use of levy funds and support in identifying opportunities for continuous professional development and new entry-level apprenticeship posts.

Information on apprenticeships, qualifications and how schools can access the levy funds was available on the new HERE for Schools website. Schools had been advised that if a particular apprenticeship was not on the list the Organisational Development Team would look to source one for them.

859 SCHOOLS BUDGET 2019-20 TO 2023-24 - A joint report was submitted by the Directors of Corporate Resources and Children, Families and Schools on the Schools Budget for 2019-20 to 2023-24. The 2019-20 schools budget had originally been approved by the Schools Forum on 10 January 2019. Since the Schools Forum meeting in June 2019, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) had announced a series of changes to the level of 2019-20 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). An increase of £0.015m to the high needs funding block to reflect an adjustment for the import and export of high needs places between local authorities and an increase to the 2019-20 early years block of £0.425m. A further increase in the 2019-20 early years block of £0.256m was announced by the ESFA which related to the under-funding of the early years block in 2018-19.

The Secretary of State confirmed additional funding for schools nationally of £2.6 billion in 2020-21; £4.8 billion in 2021-22 and £7.1 billion in 2022-23 and from the £2.6 billion in 2020-21 £700 million would be directed to high needs.

Indicative increases to the DSG for 2020-21 for the East Riding, were confirmed by the DfE on 11 October 2019 as £8.679m (4.7%) for the schools block; £3.812m (16.3%) for the high needs block and a reduction of £0.167m (8%) for the Central School Services block.

The Department for Education also confirmed that minimum funding levels would be compulsory in local funding formulas from 2020-21.

On 5 November 2019, the Council consulted with schools and academies on two possible local funding formula options to use from 2020-21 with Option 1 being to replicate the values in the National Funding Formula and Option 2 to continue using the East Riding's existing local funding formula but to introduce the minimum funding level factor. The Schools Forum was asked to decide which option they wanted to recommend to The Cabinet.

The financial planning process for 2020-24 is well underway and the cost pressures facing the schools budget for that period was currently estimated at £33.935m.

While the early years block funding levels for 2020-21 have still to be confirmed the DfE had announced on 31 October 2019 that the hourly rate for three and four year olds be £4.38 per hour, an increase of 8p per hour on the 2019-20 rate and a similar increase of 8p to £5.28 for two year olds. A report on all early years proposals for 2020-21 will be brought to the meeting of the Schools Forum in January 2020.

Agreed - (a) that the Schools Forum submit comments to the Council on the pressures faced by schools in 2020-24;

(b) that the current schools budget baseline for 2019-20 of £227.972m be approved, matching the confirmed allocation for 2019-20;

(c) that the reduction in primary and secondary budgets within the schools block to reflect recoupment for academies in 2019-20 be noted;

(d) that the current level of DSG after recoupment for 2019-20 be noted, and

(e) that the Forum recommends to the Cabinet their preference for local funding formula Option 2 to be used in 2020-21.

860 BUDGET DE-DELEGATIONS AND CENTRALLY RETAINED SERVICES

2020-21 - A joint report by the Directors of Corporate Resources and Children, Families and Schools was submitted to the Forum which set out the background of the School Funding Reform changes introduced in 2013 whereby the DfE had instructed local authorities to delegate to maintained schools as much of the notional Schools Funding block as possible. This included funding for a number of specified services where in the first instance funding needs to be delegated to schools and can only be de-delegated with the agreement of the Schools Forum. Academies would always receive their share of this funding and de-delegations were not available for special schools, nursery schools or PRUs. The DfE also permit, with the agreement of the Schools Forum, that funding could be retained centrally for a number of specific services. The specific services can be broken down into five main categories and in 2019/20 total £2.082m which represented the 2019/20 baseline for the central school services block.

A consultation exercise had been conducted with schools to determine which services schools believed should be de-delegated. A second consultation exercise which focussed solely on union facilities time was subsequently conducted. Thirty six primary schools had responded to the first consultation with 32 supporting the continuation of the existing de-delegations. Nineteen primary schools responded to the second consultation with 10 objecting to the proposed increase in the union facilities de-delegation rate.

The School forum asked for the proposed de-delegation rate for union facilities time to be adjusted to reflect the inclusion of buy back from The Snaith Academy.

On 11 October 2019 the ESFA announced indicative 2020-21 funding levels for on-going functions and historic commitments. An announcement by the DfE on the final 2020-21 Schools budget and totals for the individual funding blocks will be made in December 2019 and a paper on this will be brought to the January meeting of the Schools Forum.

It was noted that details of the local schools funding formula for 2020-21 have to be submitted to the Education and Skills Funding Agency by 21 January 2020 and include details of delegations and de-delegations.

Agreed - That the School Forum supports -

(a) The de-delegation of the budgets listed in Appendix 1 for 2020-21 with the adjustment to the figures in relation to Union Facilities Time;

(b) the continued retention centrally in 2020-21 of those existing budgets retained centrally and listed in paragraphs 1.8.1, 1.8.2 and 1.8.4 subject to the final level of the central schools services block being confirmed by the ESFA in December 2019, and

(c) the criteria behind the operation of the pupil growth fund.

861 SCHOOL AND SERVICE ISSUES - Deborah Myers updated the Schools Forum on Academies. Keyingham Primary School was currently going through the process and would join The Consortium Academy Trust, scheduled to be finalised by 1 April 2020. Reedness and Barmby on the Marsh primary schools decided they no longer wished to academise but to remain as local authority maintained schools. North Cave primary school converted to an academy on the 1 November 2019. The East Riding currently had 20% of their schools that had converted to academies.

Agreed - That the update be noted.

862 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - The next scheduled meeting of the Schools Forum was 30 January 2020 at 3pm at County Hall, Beverley.