

EAST RIDING SCHOOLS' FORUM**30 JANUARY 2020****PRESENT:****School Members**

Representing Head Teachers of Primary Schools: Mrs S Woolhouse
Representing Head Teachers of va/vc Primary Schools: Mrs J Cattle
Representing Governing Bodies of Primary Schools: Mrs C Bunker
Representing Governing Bodies of va/vc Primary Schools: Mr D Shepherd
Representing Head Teachers of Secondary Schools/Academies: Mr S Ratherham
Representing Nursery Schools: Mrs C White

Non-School Members

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

Observers

Councillor J Abraham

Advisers

Mr J Neilson, Head of Finance
Mr J O'Brien, Principal Improvement Advisor
Mr L Wilkinson, Early Years and Family Information Services Manager

Support Officers

Mr J Fisher, Finance Manager
Miss J Dale, Senior Committee Manager

The meeting was held at County Hall, Beverley.

863 APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mrs S Bone, Mr G Cannon, Mr G Chappell, Mrs S Japp (Secondary Heads), Mrs M Coates (Secondary Governor), Mr A Hall (Special Schools), Mr P Richardson (Primary Head), Mr D Stork (Primary Governor), Mrs P Foster (Non-Teaching Trade Union), Deborah Myers and Eoin Rush (ERYC).

864 RESIGNATION - David Stork, Chairman of the Schools Forum had tendered his resignation due to family circumstances. Members of the School Forum wished David and his family all the best and thanked him for his excellent work as Chairman and his support over the last few years.

Claire Bunker, Vice-Chairman, chaired the meeting and it was agreed that a Chairman would be appointed at the next scheduled meeting.

865 MINUTES - Agreed - That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING -

866 Developing the Schools Forum - Further to minute 856, it was confirmed that the Agendas had been circulated electronically and the minutes would be circulated to Head Teachers for Governing Bodies once approved at the School Forum meeting.

867 Budget de-delegations and Centrally Retained Services - Further to minute 860, it was confirmed that a revision to the proposed de-delegation rate for union facilities time had been made to reflect the fact that The Snaith Academy were now paying into the union facilities time service.

868 EARLY YEARS FUNDING AND PERFORMANCE UPDATE - A joint report from the Directors of Children, Families and Schools and Corporate Resources was submitted which gave an update on the early years funding position. The Education and Skills Funding Agency had announced that the 2020-21 hourly funding rates for the East Riding would increase from £5.20 to £5.28 for two year olds and from £4.30 to £4.38 for three and four year olds. Overall early years block funding would increase from £17.829m in 2019-20 to £18.157m or 2020-21. It was proposed that the hourly rate paid to providers increase from £4.00 to £4.07 for three and four year olds and from £5.20 to £5.28 for two year olds. Of the £4.38 hourly rate to be received by the East Riding for 2020-21, £4.07 would be used on the hourly rate to providers, the equivalent of £0.13 would be used on the deprivation supplement and £0.18 on central costs which would continue to include a contribution towards the supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools.

As agreed by the Schools Forum in November 2018, a lump sum of £0.098m would be provided to each of the maintained nursery schools for 2020-21.

Data from Ofsted showed the 98% of all East Riding childcare providers were judged to be good or outstanding. The take up of two year old funding stood at 81% and over 100% of 3 and 4 year old funding as a result of children attending East Riding settings from neighbouring authorities. Feedback from providers continued to highlight the value of the continuing support and guidance from the Council's Early Years team.

Agreed - (a) that the Schools Forum support the proposed increase to the hourly rates from the Summer term 2020 for all schools and private, voluntary and independent settings;

(b) that the Schools Forum approves the central retention of £0.648m (4.1%), and

(c) That the Schools Forum note the ongoing support for maintained nursery schools through the payment of supplementary funding over and above the Government allocation.

869 SCHOOLS BUDGET 2020-21 - The Directors of Children, Families and Schools and Corporate Resources submitted a joint report on the Schools Budget for 2020-21. Julian Neilson gave a brief overview of the financial plan.

On 19 December 2019, the Education, Skills and Funding Agency announced the schools budget funding settlement for 2020-21 and the East Riding's Dedicated Schools Grant for 2020-21 of £241.803m was £13.831m higher than the 2019-20 level of £229.972m. This increase reflected the East Riding's share of the additional £14bn nationally announced by the Government in Summer 2019 for schools funding over the period 2020-21 to 2022-23 and specifically £2.6bn for 2020-21 including £700m for high needs. The increase of £13.831m includes £9.781m for the

schools block, £3.883m for high needs, £0.328m for early years and a reduction of £0.161m for central school services.

A proposal to the Council on 13 February that the reduction to the central school services be met through an additional contribution of £0.057m from the General Fund budget to maintain the exclusions service and a reduction of £0.104m to the contribution from the DSG to the Council's School Improvement Services. The specific reduction of £0.104m would be taken from the schools causing concern but this budget would continue to be supported by the school improvement monitoring and brokering grant received from the DfE which was £0.424m in the 2019-20 financial year.

Following extensive consultation with East Riding schools and the Schools Forum, it would be recommended to The Cabinet on 4 February that a local schools funding formula be maintained for 2020-21 by adjusting the existing approved local funding formula to include compulsory minimum per pupil funding levels of £3,750 per pupil for primary and £5,000 for secondary pupils. This proposal provides the largest financial increase to the majority of East Riding pupils which providing more protection for smaller primary schools and was supported by the Schools Forum on 28 November 2019. Final details of the local schools funding formula has been submitted to the ESFA on 21 January 2020.

Further guidance on the roll out of risk protection arrangements to the local authority maintained schools from 1 April 2020 from the DfE was awaited and schools were requested to wait for this information and discuss within the groups they represent.

Members enquired about the likely trends and predicted birth rate numbers in the East Riding.

Vivienne Pooleman, private early years provider, circulated a proposal with a request that East Yorkshire Council offer business rates relief to early years settings. It was noted that Scotland and Wales nurseries and pre-schools were exempt from paying business rates and discretion lies with the local authority in England.

Julian Neilson informed the meeting that the business rates including reliefs were due to the Government on 31 January 2020, and there was no time for a formal decision making process ahead of the coming financial year. It was proposed that the Head of Finance reviews this issue and updates the Schools Forum at its next meeting.

Agreed - (a) that the Head of Finance informs the Cabinet of the Schools Forum's request for business rate relief to early years settings, reviews the implications of this proposal and provides an update to the next meeting of the Schools Forum;

(b) that the proposed central retentions be funded from the central school services block, as identified in paragraph 4.7 of the report;

(c) that the School Forum note the amended de-delegation rate per pupil for union facilities time in 2020-21

(d) that a report showing the predicted birth rate figures and trends be brought to the next meeting of the Schools Forum.

870 SCHOOL AND SERVICE ISSUES - Jamie O'Brien updated the Schools Forum on school and service issues. He confirmed that Keyingham Primary School was due to join The Consortium Academy Trust on 1 April 2020. There were currently 34 academies in the East Riding. The new Inspection Framework was now in place and 13 inspections had taken place during the Autumn term with 9 good, 2 moving from good to requires improvement, 1 moving from requires improvement to good and 1 inadequate to good. Jamie confirmed that 80% of schools were 'good'.

Agreed - That the update be noted.

871 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - The next scheduled meeting of the Schools Forum is 18 June 2020 at 3pm in County Hall, Beverley.

www.eastriding.gov.uk/council/governance-and-spending/budgets-and-spending/schools-forum/