

SCHOOLS FORUM
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2024

PRESENT:

Primary Headteacher Representative: Mr E Squire (Chair)

Secondary School Headteacher Representative: Mr R Henderson

Secondary School Academy Representative: Mrs L Spellman

Special School Representative: Mrs C Thomas

LA Representative: Councillor C Clark

OFFICIALS: Mr A Bryson – Chief Accountant
Mr G Waller – Senior Accountant
Mrs V Housley – Head of Service Education and Inclusion
Cllr. L Evans – Councillor at LA
Mrs M McCarthy - Director of Children's Services
Mrs S Hewitson - Secretary to the Forum

The meeting was no quorate.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

RESOLVED that the apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Swift, Mrs J Stanyard, Mr E Huntington, Mr J Faulkner, Mr R Powner, Mrs H Gregory, Mr L Russell, Mr C Wilkinson, Mr R Parkinson and Mrs J Armstrong be accepted by the Forum.

Mr R Henderson would be late to the meeting.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members were invited to declare any personal or business interests they may have in any item included on the agenda.

No interests were declared.

3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 12 NOVEMBER 2024**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2024 be deferred to the next Schools Forum meeting.

Agenda

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. **SCHOOLS NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA 2025/26**

Further information regarding the Schools National Funding Formula would be ready for the next Schools Forum meeting due to be held on Tuesday 21st January 2025.

Agenda

6. **SCHOOLS FUNDING CONSULTATION 2025/26**

The council recently held a consultation on school funding arrangements for 2025/26. This consultation closed on the 11th December. A copy of the consultation document issued to schools was attached at Appendix A to this report.

A Schools Forum meeting had been arranged for 21st January 2025, where the full final proposals would be confirmed prior to submission to ESFA on 22nd January 2025. Of the 78 schools consulted with, 23 responses were received. The responses include a block of 11 votes from one Academy Trust and a block of 5 votes from another.

Mr Bryson explained that in the document circulated, there was a slight error where there was 12 Primary Academy and 0 Special Academy displayed in the table however, this should be 11 Primary Academy 11 and 1 Special Academy. The breakdown of the 23 responses (which is a 29% response rate) is as shown in the table below and reflects this amendment:

LA Primary	6
LA Secondary	1
Primary Academy	11
Secondary Academy	4
AP / Special Academy	1
TOTAL	23

The three questions related to the Schools Funding formula and are considered together. With the exception of 1 return, which had no views all remaining responses fully supported the proposals in Questions 1 to 3.

- Q1 - 22 Responded Yes, 1 No Views
- Q2 - 23 Responded Yes,
- Q3 - 23 Responded Yes,

Schools Forum is asked to support the proposals for the schools funding formula for 2025/26 noting that:

- All Schools Forum members may vote on this proposal.
- The local authority is required to consult with Schools Forum on the funding formula, however the local authority retains the final decision on the formula to be used.

Due to the meeting not being quorate, Mr Bryson asked that all voting members submit their vote regarding the School Funding Consultation at the meeting and the remaining members who weren't present be asked to submit their vote via email which the Clerk would facilitate. Mr Bryson confirmed that voting via email was written in the constitution document for Schools Forum. Mrs L Spellman, Mr Edwin Squire and Miss C Thomas submitted their vote at the meeting.

Mr R Henderson joined the meeting.

Mr R Henderson was informed of what had been discussed previously in the meeting and submitted his vote accordingly.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would circulate an email to all voting members asking to vote on the Schools Funding Consultation for 2025/26.

Clerk

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Action

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting of Schools Forum would be held on 21st January 2025 at 1.00 p.m.