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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS FUNDING FORUM

Zoom

14 January 2021 (9.30 - 11.20 am)

Present:

Representative Groups

LA Maintained School
Representatives

Head Teachers: Emma Allen, Special
Georgina Delmonte
Kirsten Cooper
Steve Bowers
Hayley Durrant
Hayley McClenaghan
David Unwin-Bailey

Governors: Dave Waters

Academy Representatives

Primary: Kate Ridley-Moy

Secondary: Keith Williams
Neil Frost

Special: Vicki Fackler

Non-School Representatives

Early Years PVI: Emma Reynolds

Trade Unions: John McGill

38 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE
MEMBERS OR OBSERVERS**

39 **TO AGREE THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER
2020**

The notes of the meeting of the Forum held on 3 November 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

40 **MATTERS ARISING**

The Forum noted that the Assistant Director of Children's Services had spoken to Mark Halls to have a meeting set up.

41 **THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF COVID 19**

The report presented to the Forum gave an update on the financial impact that COVID-19 had had on schools.

The Forum noted that in May 2020 the DfE had advised schools of the opportunity to claim for a limited range of additional costs that had been incurred. 38 LA maintained schools had received a total of £300,705. There would be a second opportunity for schools to submit a claim, but only for costs incurred between March and July 2020.

It was also noted that the DfE had announced the creation of a Coronavirus workforce fund for schools. This would be applicable for the second half term of the autumn. Where a school's level of staff absence was more than 20% on one day, or more than 10% for more than 15 days, the school could submit a claim. Schools with a balance of more than 4% would not be able to claim.

It was noted that there was a grant of £3.50 a week available for free school meals to meet the difference in cost between supplying meals in school and providing food parcels.

Members of the Forum were concerned that funding for the mass vaccination programme may not be available to schools with increasing balances.

There was no funding available for a school's loss of income.

Similar funding had not been made available to early years settings.

The Schools Funding Forum **noted** the current funding arrangements.

42 **TO AGREE THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2020 (EXEMPT ITEM)**

The exempt notes of the meeting of the Forum held on 3 November 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

43 **MATTERS ARISING (EXEMPT ITEM)**

There were no matters to be considered by the Forum.

44 **SCHOOL FORMULA FUNDING 2021-22**

The Forum received a report detailing the Local Authority's recommendations on the funding of Havering's schools and academies for financial year 2021-22.

The Forum noted that the funding consultation with schools had proposed a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) of 0.5% with no gains cap. The consultation had been based on indicative funding figures provided by the DfE. The Forum noted that the Local Authority had now been informed of the final Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Block allocation for 2021-22, together with the pupil data for October 2020 that would be used to calculate 2021-22 school allocations.

The Forum members were pleased to note that Havering's School Block allocation had increased by 4.0% compared to 2020-21. This increase included funding for 611 more pupils than in the indicative allocation.

It was also noted that a transfer of £550k to the Growth Fund was required to maintain school funding for growth and falling rolls at the current level.

Recalculation of 2021-22 school budgets using the final funding allocation, and October 2020 pupil data, showed that a Minimum Funding Guarantee of 1.75% could now be afforded, together with no funding cap.

The Forum **agreed**:

1. The Local Authority adopts the national funding formula rates for the funding of schools and academies in financial year 2021-22 and also ensures that all schools receive a minimum funding guarantee of 1.75% per pupil, with no gains capped.
2. That £550,000 of the DSG Schools Block is used to support the Pupil Growth/Falling Rolls Fund

45 **DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT – CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK 2021-22**

The Forum received a report which outlined the final allocation received for the Dedicated Schools Grant Central School Services Block.

The Forum noted the total Central School Services Block (CSSB) had increased from the indicative figure, provided at the September 2020 meeting, due to an increase in pupil numbers.

The Forum **agreed** that the additional sum in the final allocation be held as a contingency.

46 HIGH NEEDS FUNDING 2020-21 AND 2021-22

The report presented to the Forum provided a forecast of the expenditure against the 2020-21 High Needs budget and provided details of the Dedicated Schools Block for High Needs for 2021-22.

The Forum noted that the projected overspend had increased from £2.4million to £4.1million, with an increased in-year overspend forecasted at £3million. The Forum noted the High Needs Forecast of 2020-21 showed total funding was £25.1million with a cumulative overspend of £4million. It was noted that the 10% increase in the Dedicated Schools Block for High Needs for 2021-22, was not sufficient to cover the deficit.

The Forum:

1. **Noted** the year-end forecast of High Needs expenditure for financial year 2020-21
2. **Noted** the Dedicated Schools Grant - High Needs Block allocation for financial year 2021-22

47 EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2021-22

As proposed by the Chair, the Forum agreed to have this report presented at a special single item meeting of the Forum. This would allow prior discussion at the Early Years Provider Representation Group.

48 NEXT MEETINGS

The single item meeting of the Forum to discuss early years funding would be held on Tuesday 23rd February at 9.30m via Zoom.

The next normal meeting of the Forum would be held on Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 9.30 am via Zoom.

49 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Forum noted that the process for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Early Years settings and schools had been finalised.