

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SCHOOLS FUNDING FORUM
Held at CEME
16 June 2022 (8.00 - 10.30 am)**

Present:

Representative Groups

**LA Maintained Primary
Schools**

Head Teachers: Kirsten Cooper
Emma Allen
Georgina Delmonte
Hayley McClenaghan
Chris Speller
David Unwin-Bailey

**Governor
Representative:**

**Academy
Representatives:**

Primary

Secondary: Keith Williams
Neil Frost

AP Gary Haines

**Early Years PVI
Representative:**

**Trade Union
Representatives:** John McGill

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS OR OBSERVERS

Apologies were received from Emma Reynolds, Kate Ridley-Moy and Garth Tucker

2 TO AGREE THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH JUNE 2022

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

4 LA MAINTAINED SCHOOLS' BALANCES 2021-22

The Forum was presented with the LA Maintained School balances for 2021-22.

Members noted that although the number of schools in deficit had remained at eleven, the total value of the deficit had reduced. Nine schools has been in deficit for three years or more. One school had had a surplus of in excess of 10% for more than five years.

Members noted that the total net surplus had fallen slightly, from £4.7m to £4.5m.

The Forum was presented with a breakdown of income and expenditure by CFR category for 2021-22 and the preceding two years. Members noted that income and expenditure in 2021-22 more closely matched the pattern from prior to the pandemic. Contributions from visits had risen sharply since 2020-21 but remained well below the pre-pandemic level.

The Forum noted the report.

5 DSG OUTTURN 2021-22

The Forum was presented with the DSG Outturn figures for 2021-22.

Members noted the deficit had risen by £1.95m during the year. There was an underspend of £302k in the Early Years block, an underspend of £249k in the Schools block and an underspend of £93k in the Central Schools Support block.

Within de-delegation, maternity leave insurance had overspent by £78k. This could be was offset by an underspend on insurance of £93k

The High Needs block had overspent by £2.65m in year, with the brought forward deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant of £2.36m attributed to High Needs this resulted in a cumulative deficit of just over £5.0m.

The DSG net deficit, including the overspend brought forward, was £4.3m. Allowing for sums committed for 2022-23 the revised DSG deficit was £4.7m.

Members agreed the recommendations on the allocation of funding balances unanimously.

6 SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS AND SCHOOLS CASUDING CONCERN FUND 2021-22

The Forum was presented with a breakdown of expenditure for 2021-22. There had been an underspend of £79k.

Members agreed with the proposal for £53k of this to be carried forward to 2022-23 to bring the total budget back up to £200k. This followed a reduction in funding from the DfE to £147k.

7 SECTION 251 BUDGET STATEMENT 2022-23

The Forum was presented with the Section 251 budget statement for 2022-23 as submitted to the DfE. The Forum were advised that if they had any queries on the figures, following further scrutiny, these should be addressed to Nick Carter in the first instance.

The Forum noted the report.

8 DELIVERING BETTER VALUE (DBV) IN SEND PROGRAMME

The Forum was presented with details of this new DfE programme. 55 local authorities had been invited to take part, including Havering. Havering is in the second tranche due to start in the autumn.

The key purpose of the programme was not to address historic deficits but to help LAs provide effective SEND services, improving delivery to children and young people, whilst ensuring this was done within budget.

The Forum noted the report.

9 REFORMS TO THE NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA – DFE RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

The Forum was presented with the Government's response to the consultation on reforms to the National Funding Formula.

The response made reference to a second consultation being held. Nick Carter informed the Forum that this had been launched a few days earlier and gave a brief outline of what was included in the new consultation 'Implementing the direct national funding formula'. Members noted that this included a recommendation for the retention of local discretion in the allocation of funding for growth and falling rolls which could be of significance to Havering.

The LA intended to submit a response.

The Forum noted the report.

10 DE-DELEGATION OF FUNDING FOR 2023-24

The Forum was presented with an outline of the LAs proposals for de-delegation for the 2023-24 financial year. Details would be brought to the next meeting. Members were advised that the LA may need to seek an increase in the sum de-delegated for maternity leave following an overspend in 2021-22.

The Forum noted the report.

11 SCHOOL FUNDING FORUM MEETINGS ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23

The Forum agreed the dates proposed and requested a start time of 8.00am. The preference was for the meetings to be held face to face at CEME rather than virtually.

12 The Forum agreed to hold this item in an exempt meeting under paragraph 3 of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Forum agreed the recommendations unanimously.