

## EAST RIDING SCHOOLS' FORUM

20 JUNE 2019

### PRESENT:

#### School Members

Representing Head Teachers of Primary Schools: Mrs S Woolhouse

Representing Governing Bodies of Primary Schools: Mr D Stork

Representing Governing Bodies of va/vc Primary Schools: Mr D Shepherd

Representing Head Teachers of Secondary Schools/Academies: Mrs S Japp, Mr V Groak and Mr G Cannon

Representing Nursery Schools: Mrs C White

#### Non-School Members

Representing Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership: Mr L Wilkinson

#### Advisers

Ms D Myers, Head of Children and Young People, Education and Schools

Mr J Neilson, Head of Finance

#### 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.

**838 BRIDGET BENNET, MBE** - David Stork, Chairman, on behalf of the Schools Forum sent congratulations and best wishes to Bridget Bennett on being awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for her work with children and families across the East Riding.

**839 APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor J Abraham, Sarah Bone, Julie Cattle, Andy Hall and Ray Sharpe.

**840 MINUTES - Agreed** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

#### MATTERS ARISING -

**841 Membership** - Further to minute 829, Deborah Myers confirmed that several attempts had been made to recruit Secondary Governors to this Forum through a number of means. It was noted that it was critical to have these members at the Schools Forum AGM to vote on pertinent matters affecting the schools groups represented. Members noted that it was important to re-establish the membership of this Forum.

**842 EARLY YEARS - UPDATE** - Lee Wilkinson, Early Years and Families Information Services Manager, updated the Forum on the current issues. The feedback from private providers regarding the hourly rate increase was positive and appreciative, however providers did have concerns regarding the increasing costs in delivering childcare for 3/4 years olds with combined

overheads increasing. A number of providers had joined the East Yorkshire Alliance to highlight pressures on East Yorkshire funding.

It was confirmed that there was a sufficiency of places across all types of provisions in the East Riding but the situation would be monitored. The number of schools offering places for 3-4 years olds was also increasing.

The quality of provision was high with 98% good or outstanding.

**Agreed** - That the update be noted.

**843 SCHOOLS BUDGET OUTTURN 2018/19** - Jonathan Fisher, Finance Manager reported that the School Budget had underspent by £0.241m in 2018/19. At the end of 2018/19 the total school reserve was £8.325m, an in-year increase of £0.241m (3.0%) Within this reserve, individual school balances stood at £8.251m (including central balances), an in-year increase of £0.342m (43%) and non-Individual Schools Budget balances stood at £0.076m, a reduction of £0.100m (5.6%).

Between 1 May and 1 September 2018, five schools had converted to academies resulting in a transfer of balances to the schools reserve of £0.146m plus a sixth school which converted on 1 October 2018 with a deficit of £0.352m. This deficit had been met from general fund resources. The final schools budget for 2018/19 was £158.296m and budgeted dedicated schools grant of £158.442m.

The financial pressures facing schools in the period 2019-2023 are estimated at £16.828m. Details of each school's initial budget share for 2017/18 and 2018/19 and carry forwards for both years were in the report. It was confirmed that the Council continued to work with schools in deficit to ensure plans were in place to bring their budgets back into balance.

The Schools Capital Programme in 2018/19 underspent by £0.334m against an approved budget of £10.628m, details of which were contained within the report.

**Agreed** - (a) that the de-delegated service overspend of £0.016m in 2018/19 be funded from the balance of non-ISB resources, and

(b) that schools be reminded of the importance of contacting the School Finance Team when seeking advice on how to manage their budget within the resources available.

**844 SCHOOLS BUDGET 2019/20 TO 2022/23** - Jonathan Fisher, Finance Manager had submitted a report on the Schools Budget 2019/20 to 2022/23. The final 2019/20 Schools budget of £227.532m had been approved by the Forum on 10 January 2019 and the latest schools budget for 2019/20 which was announced by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 27 March 2019 remained unchanged. However, further changes in relation the 2019/20 Early Years Block were expected to be announced by the ESFA in the summer. Pressures previously identified against the Schools Budget for 2020/21 and 2020-23 totalled £4.874m and £10.597m respectively and these pressures and any savings would now need to be revised in the light of new data available together with any new pressures and savings for 2023/24.

Recoupment of the Dedicated Schools Grant by the Education and Skills Funding Agency for the 27 East Riding academies and one free school totalled £69.920m in 2019/20. Recoupment of High Needs funding for 2019/20 currently totals £0.609m.

The 2019/20 Early Years Block had yet to be adjusted to reflect changes in the January 2019 early years census. An announcement by the ESFA is usually expected in June. All changes will be reported to a future meeting of the Schools Forum.

No decision on whether to continue with the local funding formula or change to the national funding formula in 2020/21 had yet been taken but this matter would be the subject of a future report to the Schools Forum and possible consultation with all East Riding schools and Academies subject to further details being released by the DfE.

The impact on the four East Riding nursery schools of the agreed reduction in the value of the lump sum was still being assessed and a report on its impact would be brought to a future meeting of the Forum.

When completing schools budget forecasts assumptions have to be made on future levels of Government funding and whether grant funding would continue. Members of the Forum asked for these concerns to be raised with the f40 group and for submission to be made to the DfE expressing concern about the lack of detail on future Government school spending plans.

**Agreed** - (a) that the Forum submits its views on the current budget position and the financial pressures facing schools and central school budgets between 2020-24, and

(b) the current schools budget for 2019/20 of £227.532m be agreed, matching the confirmed allocation for 2019/20 announced by the ESFA on 27 March 2019.

**845 SCHOOL AND SERVICE ISSUES** - Deborah Myers, Head of Children and Young People, Education and Schools informed the Forum that all four Catholic Schools in the East Riding would be joining the Diocesan Academy Trust, St Margaret of Clitherow.

All Saints Federation Infants and Juniors would convert and join the EBOR Academy Trust on 1 September 2019 and North Cave Primary School would convert and join The Education Alliance on the 1 October 2019.

A Direct Academy Order had been received in light of the Ofsted report for Keyingham Primary School, with an Academy chain still to be selected by the Regional Schools Commissioner after consideration by the Head Teacher Board. An Academy Trust were currently working with Keyingham under an East Riding School Improvement Plan.

Apprenticeship Levy - Officers in the Organisational Development Team were looking at ways to help schools maximise the drawdown of the apprenticeship levy and were looking at cohorts of key roles within schools that may benefit from following an apprenticeship route to upskill the workforce.

New Inspection Framework - The new inspection framework is due to be launched in September 2019. Head Teachers from the three East Riding of Yorkshire pilot schools would share their experience and feedback to support primary school colleagues through a planned training programme and to secondary colleagues through an item on the agenda at the secondary Heads annual conference. Both these activities would take place in July.

**Agreed** - That the information be noted.

**846 EAST RIDING SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP UPDATE -** Deborah Myers informed the Forum that ERSIP oversees the programme of school to school support and the ERSIP programme and work had been well received and highly valued in supporting children to experience learning.

By 31 May 2019, East Riding had 84.5% of schools at good or better, with the national average being 85% and 79% regionally. Primary Schools had attained 87% of good or better against 86.5% nationally and 82% regionally. Secondary schools attained 67% good or better against 75% nationally and 67% regionally. Currently ERSIP were supporting 70 schools through school to school support.

**Agreed** - That the information be noted.

**847 SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS -** Jonathan Fisher reported that the existing local scheme was on the Council's website. The Department of Education (DfE) directed changes to the national scheme were currently being reviewed and a report on the amended local scheme would be brought for approval to a future meeting of the Schools Forum.

**Agreed** - That the information be noted.

**848 DEVELOPING THE SCHOOLS FORUM -** Deborah Myers informed the Forum that the DfE were looking to ensure that all local authorities were statutorily compliant and that the work of the Forum should be strengthened to assure this. Consultations take place with the Forum regarding local authority functions, ie SEN, PRU, allocation of grants and other matters concerning funding. The School Forum is a key group and the question was raised about encouraging full participation to make sure that schools have a voice at the Forum and the timing of meetings.

Training and induction for new members was raised and it was noted that school finances were a complex area. Training on a specific agenda item be given that day an hour before the start of the meeting. It was noted that there were three vacancies to be filled by Secondary Governors.

**Agreed** - That training be introduced for new members one hour before the start of the meeting on an item specific to the agenda, from 2pm with the main meeting taking place between 3pm and 5pm.

**849 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - Agreed** - Schools Forum AGM - Thursday, 3 October 2019 at 3.00pm. Members to note the change in the start time of 3.00pm, however the room will be available from 2.00pm for a one hour training session pertinent to the agenda.

**850 BRIDLINGTON SCHOOLS PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE UPDATE -** A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Resources which updated the Forum on the current PFI Reserve Forecast. In May 2019, the latest published Retail Price Index inflation figure was 3.0% for April 2019. The ongoing Brexit negotiations and continued economic uncertainty meant that unprecedented economic conditions prevail and decisions based on volatile economic data should be taken with extreme caution. For the purposes of the latest forecast, an increase of 3.1% for the remainder of the contract has been assumed.

Based on current forecasts the PFI reserve was currently expected to have a surplus balance of £2.102m at the end of the contract in 2028 compared to a forecast deficit of £13.8m calculated in 2013. The improvement was due to the Schools Forum contribution, revised schools contribution for facilities management costs and catering costs, the library contribution and savings made from the re-negotiation of the window cleaning and catering contract. The changing situation would continue to be monitored and re-assessed on an annual basis.

**Agreed** - That the annual schools budget contribution towards the PFI reserve be maintained at £0.757m per annum.