

**SCHOOLS FORUM
17 JANUARY 2013
4.30 - 5.28 PM**



Present:

Schools Members

Sue Barber, Primary School Governor
Liz Cole, Primary School Representative
Trisha Donkin, Primary School Representative
Ed Essery, Primary School Governor
Martin Gocke, Pupil Referral Unit Representative
Keith Grainger, Secondary Head Teachers Representative
Louise Lovegrove, Primary School Representative
John McNab, Secondary School Governor
Joanna Quinn, Primary School Representative
Tony Reading, Primary School Governor
Paul Salter, Secondary School Representative
Trudi Sammons, Primary School Representative
Margaret Saner, Secondary School Governor
Anne Shillcock, Special Education Representative
John Throssell, Primary School Governor (Vice-Chairman)

Non-Schools Members:

George Clement, Union Representative (Chairman)
Kate Sillett, PVI Provider Representative

Apologies for absence were received from:

Brian Fries, Secondary School Governor
Kathy Winrow, Secondary School Representative

21. Declarations of Interest

Joanna Quinn declared an interest in respect of Item 6 in relation to Wooden Hill School as this was considered in the proposed capital programme.

Margaret Saner declared an interest in respect of Item 6 in relation to Garth Hill College as a governor at the school.

Keith Grainger declared an interest in respect of Item 6 in relation to Garth Hill College as the Headteacher of the school.

Trisha Donkin declared an interest in respect of Item 6 in relation to Garth Hill College.

22. Minutes and Matters Arising

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

23. **Setting the baseline for the 2013-14 Schools Budget**

The Forum considered a report which set out the changes being made from April 2013 by the Department for Education (DfE) to the structure of education funding through a re-configuration of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). There would also be changes in funding responsibilities, particularly in relation to special educational needs, with consequential funding adjustments between local authorities and grant funding bodies.

The paper also explained the implications; there was confirmation that a new budget baseline needed to be established and the approved Bracknell Forest Schools Budget needed to be aligned with the new baseline before the 2013-14 budget setting process could commence.

RESOLVED that the Schools Forum:

- i. **NOTED** the changes being made to the composition of the DSG, as set out in the supporting information;
- ii. **NOTED** the provisional amounts in each DSG Block for Bracknell Forest, as summarised in Table 3 at paragraph 5.28;
- iii. **REQUESTED** that the Executive Member **AGREE**:
 - a. the amount that the adjusted DSG for 2012-13 exceeded the current approved budget by was allocated as set out in paragraph 5.26;
 - b. the consequential budget virements that were summarised in Annex 5.

24. **Proposals for the 2013-14 Schools Budget**

The Forum considered an update on school funding and proposals from the Council for the 2013-14 Schools Budget. The views of the Schools Forum on the proposals were sought in advance of the 22 January 2013 deadline for submitting to the Department for Education (DfE) the actual Funding Formula for Schools to be used in 2013-14 and associated units of resource.

A presentation was made to the Forum highlighting the following key points:

- The financial settlement from the DfE provided:
 - no uplift for inflation,
 - fully funded increases in pupil numbers
 - increased the Pupil Premium rates by around 50%
 - allocated BF £0.894m to expand support to 2 year olds
- There was an additional £1.606m available to allocate through the Bracknell Forest Funding Formula for Schools which after funding the key pressures that met the criteria in the budget strategy left £0.442m for schools to allocate to their own priorities.
- Funding from the Pupil Premium would increase by £0.617m.
- That the majority of the £0.505m pressure on external SEN placements should be funded from the £0.190m SEN contingency initially established to support mainstream schools and the £0.269m budget to fund in-year changes in SEN numbers and needs.
- Schools faced a number of pressures that had not been funded in the financial settlement from the DfE and could not, therefore be included in the

Bracknell Forest Funding Formula for Schools. This was most significant in pay and general inflation which was estimated at £0.763m.

- That due to issues of affordability, there would be a uniform per pupil funding rate for secondary schools, rather than differential rates for KS3 and KS4.
- Per pupil funding rates in the BF Funding Formula would be limited to no more than 98% of the per pupil funding allocated to Bracknell Forest by the DfE.
- New criteria had been established for the contingencies that supported schools with excessive in-year increases in pupil numbers or financial difficulties in complying with the KS1 infant class size regulations.
- The DfE had negotiated a national contract for all schools in respect of the Copyright Licensing Agency and Music Publishers Association licences which would require de-delegation of funds from schools to the Council to finance the authority wide bill that the DfE would in future be submitting to the Council.

RESOLVED that the Schools Forum:

- i. **NOTED** that the forecast budget data and associated financial matters set out in the report;
- ii. In its role of statutory decision maker, the Forum **AGREED** the following matters in respect of the 2013-14 Schools Budget:
 - a. that the initial budget amounts for services to be centrally managed by the council were as set out in Annex 1;
 - b. the criteria to be used to allocate funds in-year to schools experiencing excessive increases in pupil numbers or unavoidable costs arising from Key Stage 1 class size regulations were as set out in Annex 4;
 - c. that the arrangements in place for provisions for statemented pupils (where not delegated) were appropriate.
- iii. In its role as the representative body of schools and other providers of education and childcare, the Forum **REQUESTED** that the Executive Member **AGREE** the following decisions for the 2013-14 Schools Budget:
 - a. that the £0.251m of savings proposed on the Schools Block were agreed (paragraph 5.20);
 - b. the allocation of the £1.606m additional resources was made to the budget areas set out in Annex 3;
 - c. the unallocated budget balance at Annex 3 of £0.442m be distributed to schools by reference to pupil numbers, deprivation and low prior attainment (paragraph 5.23);
 - d. all pupils in secondary schools were funded at the same uniform rate (paragraph 5.28);
 - e. per pupil funding rates in the BF Funding Formula did not exceed 98% of the per pupil funding received by the Council from the DfE (paragraph 5.29);
 - f. the £0.190m funding originally agreed for an SEN contingency for mainstream schools now be used to fund the forecast over spending on placements in out of borough special schools (paragraph 5.34);
 - g. the costs associated with Copyright Licensing Agency and Music Publishers Association were in future funded by way of a transfer on a per pupil basis from delegated school budgets to one that was centrally managed (paragraph 5.35);

- h. the £0.269m budget to support in-year changes in SEN costs in mainstream schools now be used to fund the forecast over spending on out of borough special schools (paragraph 5.44);
 - i. the new £0.894m funding to widen participation of 2 year olds in education and childcare should initially be ring fenced for this purpose (paragraph 5.50).
- iv. **NOTED** that after meeting the cost of additional pupils and other unavoidable cost pressures, schools would receive around £0.256m of unallocated funds to target towards their priorities or other pressures (paragraph 5.54).

25. Local Authority Budget Proposals for 2013-14

The Forum considered the 2013/14 budget proposals of the Executive for the Children, Young People and Learning Department in respect of:

- The revenue budget (Annexes B and C), and
- The capital programme (Annex D).

Under the Council's constitution, the Executive was required to consult on its detailed budget proposals with the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Commission and other interested parties for a period of at least six weeks. The report presented an overview of the Council's budget position and the specific proposals relevant to the Children, Young People and Learning (CYPL) Department to the Schools Forum for comment.

All comments received on the budget proposals would be submitted to the Executive on 13 February 2013 along with details of the final finance settlement. This would allow the Executive to determine its final budget package and recommend the appropriate Council Tax level to Council, who would formally approve the 2013/14 budget and Council Tax on 27 February 2013.

26. Dates of Future Meetings

The Forum noted that its next scheduled meeting on 7 February 2013 was cancelled. The next meeting of the Forum was scheduled for Thursday 14 March 2013 at 4.30pm in the Council Chamber at Easthampstead House.

CHAIRMAN