

Birmingham Schools Forum

Thursday 23rd June 2022

2pm – 4pm

Remote meeting via MS Teams

Present:	<p>Claire Henebury Maintained Nursery School Head Teacher representative Maxine Charles Maintained Primary School Headteacher representative Mike Dunn Maintained Secondary School Head Teacher representative Denise Fountain Maintained Special School Head Teacher representative James Hill Mainstream Academies Representative Chair David Worledge Mainstream Academies Representative Chris Townsend Mainstream Academies Representative Chris Wilson Special Academies representative Nicola Redhead Alternative provision academies representative Steve Howell Pupil Referral Unit representative Pam Garrington Maintained Primary Governor representative Sean Delaney Maintained Nursery School governor representative Simon Bartlett Maintained Secondary governor representative David Room Non-school representative (nominated by Teacher Associations) Janet Dugmore Non-school representative (Associations representing support staff working within schools) Rebecca Nash Non-school representative (nominated by those bodies representing the appropriate faith groups in respect of schools or academies with a religious character)</p> <p>Tim Boyes CEO Birmingham Education Partnership Technical Observer</p> <p>Lisa Fraser BCC Assistant Director for Education and Early Years Clare Sandland Finance Business Partner BCC. Xiao-Ming Hu Finance Manager Children and Families Directorate BCC Jaswinder Didiaily Head of Service Education Infrastructure Birmingham City Council</p> <p>By invitation: Malcolm Green Strategic Finance Manager – Schools Herefordshire Council Daniel Dawson Senior Commissioning and Finance Officer SEN Assessment and Review (SENAR) left the meeting at 2.30pm Tracey Elsdon Senior Finance Officer Schools Financial Services Finance and Governance Directorate BCC</p> <p>Observer: Pauline McKenna Director of Support Services Federation of Cherry Oak School, Victoria School & Victoria College.</p> <p>In attendance: Janice Moorhouse (clerk)</p>
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1.	Welcome and apologies for absence.	
1.1	<p>The Chair welcomed members and officers to the meeting. The Chair welcomed new members and introductions were made. With members agreement, the meeting was recorded. The recording to be published do the BCC website.</p>	
1.2	<p><u>Apologies</u>: apologies for absence received from Mashuq Ally Maintained Secondary Governor representative, Gillian Gregory Maintained Special School Governor representative, Julie Beattie Children and Families Directorate Fair Funding BCC, Les Lawrence Mainstream academies representative, Vicky Nussey Maintained Primary School Head Teacher representative, Claire Williams Maintained Primary school Headteacher representative, Jackie Howse Non-school representative (nominated by the PVI Early Years providers) and Catherine Griffiths Maintained Primary governor representative (technical issues).</p> <p>Absent: Cllr Karen McCarthy Non-school representative (Cabinet member Children, Young People and Families) and Makeda Jeffers Maintained Primary governor representative</p>	
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th March 2022	
2.1	The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
3.	Matters arising from the minutes.	

1.	Welcome and apologies for absence.	
3.1	<p><u>Item 3.1:</u> The Chair requested that, in future, papers be circulated one week in advance of the meetings. ACTION papers, reports etc should be emailed to the clerk by 2pm on the Thursday before the meeting. Noted: papers sent to the clerk on Friday 16th June at 18.07. Early Years Rates review 2022/23 Final report to be sent to the clerk for circulation. ACTION: Clerk to follow up with Lindsey Trivett. Action completed</p> <p><u>Item 5.1:</u> ACTION: work on modelling to be presented at the next technical group meeting. The Chair reported that a technical funding meeting had not been held. Jaswinder Didiially stated that, when available, modelling would be presented a technical group meeting in the autumn term.</p> <p><u>Item 5.5;</u> a request for information on the anticipated number of surplus places available in Year 7 and had not received a reply. The Chair reported a Year 7 spreadsheet had been shared before the meeting and had answered the query. The Chair requested ACTION similar information for Reception be provided.</p> <p><u>Item 6: 2022/23 High Needs budget proposals</u> Pam Garrington referred to the actions recorded and asked if there were responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The statement that ‘the proposed increases were not nearly enough to cover the demand but all the LA was able to commit to in 2022/23’. LA asked to quantify the statement in terms of the number of children without a school place or not in the right school place • a rationale to be added to the statement ‘the proposed increases were not nearly enough...’ • a breakdown on the unallocated High Needs budget to be brought to School Forum. • previous and proposed allocations of High Needs funding to be shared with School Forum. • talking to school governors on what was and what was meant by inclusion <p>Daniel Dawson stated that, although the amount was realistic for the places available, the LA recognised the need for amounts to be increased, that more special school places were needed and resources were insufficient. The Chair asked for more specific information in terms of what would be enough and what was the shortfall. Daniel Dawson stated he did not have that information. This was ongoing work. He did not have a response regarding talking to school governors. Pam Garrington, referring to the inclusion in mainstream of more children without a special school place, queried the resources available and requested a breakdown on spending of the High Needs budget. Daniel Dawson reported ACTION HNB for 2021/22 and 2022/23 to be sent to the clerk for circulation. Denise Fountain, referring to the EFSA’s additional £31m to Birmingham, asked for a breakdown on how funding was being/would be used. Daniel Dawson reported banding rates had been circulated.</p>	<p>LA</p> <p>LA/JD</p> <p>DD/clerk</p>

1.	Welcome and apologies for absence.	
4.	LA update	
4.1	<p>On behalf of BCC, Lisa Fraser apologised to members for the difficulties experienced regarding the LA's change to the use of Oracle and thanked them for their patience.</p> <p>Denise Fountain reported contacts from a number of Headteachers related to difficulties with financial demands, threats for legal action and staffing issues. The late notification of section 251 funding had caused serious issues in schools.</p>	LA/CS
4.2	<p>Clare Sandland stated a log was being kept of all issues. All schools experiencing problems to be contacted. Issues were being worked through and responded to by a multidisciplinary group. Mike Dunn reported issues were centred around payroll and finance and were very challenging for schools.</p> <p>Clare Sandland suggested issues be reported and addressed from a technical perspective in a technical group meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: Clare Sandland to arrange a date for a technical group meeting before the end of term.</p>	
4.3	<p>Funding applications: Links given via the Teams chat facility to claim forms for funding applications and DfE updated pupil premium templates for use in schools. Additional funding available for NQTs completing induction. The latest date for publication on school's website of sport premium information was 31st July.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Lisa Fraser for the update.</p>	
5.	Growth fund and Falling rolls	

1.	Welcome and apologies for absence.	
5.1	Modelling of using 8% surplus balance criteria: see item 3.1	
5.2	<p><u>Growth fund change</u> Growth Fund 2021/22 Update Report for Information circulated before the meeting. <u>Recommendation</u> School Forum to note the Growth fund allocations for 2021/22 outturn Jaswinder Didiaily stated the purpose of the report was to inform schools forum of the criteria applied to each of the growth fund allocations made in the 2021/22 financial year.</p>	
5.3	<p>Members noted the details of the explicit spend 2021-22, the eligibility codes for growth criteria and falling pupils (identical to those agreed for 2020/21), AWPU rate for KS3, KS4 and Primary and the projected spend against budgets. Falling pupils overspend of £582,849.</p>	
5.4	<p>Steve Howells, referring to column I of the explicit spend spreadsheet (Permanent or Bulge Expansion) queried the difference between permanent and bulge. Jaswinder Didiaily reported growth accepted up to the October census with pupils admitted in a planned and known way. Cases were evaluated to ensure there was no detrimental impact.</p>	
5.4	<p>The Chair, referring to the query raised with the DfE regarding the disapplication of the mandatory requirement for support to be available to a school judged to be Good or Outstanding at the last Ofsted, asked if a response had been received. Jaswinder Didiaily reported the bidding round opened in mid-September. Census numbers would be submitted. The allocation was subject to the LA putting a business case to the DfE. There was an indication that the DfE were happy to disapply the criteria on a bulk application but not on individual cases. There was a need for schools to adhere strictly to deadlines. The Chair thanked Jaswinder Didiaily for her report.</p>	
6.	2021/22 Outturn Report	

6.1	<p><u>Growth Fund 2022-23 Change (APT)</u> shown on screen at the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APT amendment due to a change to the Number on Roll at St Benedict's Primary School. Xioa-Ming Hu reported that, based on the autumn census, the NOR reception to Year 6 was 414. A budget reduction for the school of £171k was added to Growth Fund <p>The Chair asked why the money taken from section 251 went into the growth fund. Xioa-Ming Hu stated this was based on advice from the DfE. Jaswinder Didially stated growth was being seen in both the primary and secondary sectors. Members approved the amendment as presented.</p>	
6.2	<p>2021/22 Non-Schools DSG Outturn Position circulated before the meeting. Xioa-Ming Hu reported the DSG outturn position for 2021/22 was an underspend of £3.9m. Members noted the content of the table showing a breakdown of the underspend by DSG blocks.</p>	
6.3	<p>Schools Block: Xioa-Ming Hu reported an underspend £3.6m</p> <p>There was an underspend of £0.9m on the de-delegated Closing Schools Contingency Fund as no deficit was funded by Birmingham City Council for primary or secondary school closures or academy conversions during Financial Year 2021/22.</p> <p>There was a total underspend of £2.7m for Growth Funding and Falling Pupil Funding and a £0.1m overspend on other items, including tree maintenance and minor adjustments for academy capitalisations.</p>	
6.4	<p>Central Schools Services Block (CSSB): Xioa-Ming Hu reported an underspend £1.0m</p> <p>The CSSB underspend was mainly due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Admissions: a £0.5m underspend due to delays in the recruitment to vacancies, additional income generated for appeals services provided to Academy Schools and the deferral of IT development costs. • An unallocated £0.4m budget. This would be allocated for Financial Year 2022/23 onwards. • Minor underspends totalling £0.2m against historic commitments, such as equal pay and nursery redundancy costs, together with other small under spends on the School Forum budget and other miscellaneous items 	
6.5	<p>High Needs Block: Xioa-Ming Hu reported a £2.1m Overspend and 1.0% of the gross High Needs Block allocation. This was after setting aside £5.0m as agreed in the deficit repayment plan and £0.5m for Developing Local Provision (DLP) to ensure that the financial commitment to DLP over the two-year programme was honoured.</p> <p>Xioa-Ming Hu reported the overspends were mainly in relation to significant increases for demand led services which had been offset by underspends in relation to consultancy costs for new service provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £7.2m overspend on demand led service <p>Top Ups, sixth day provision, independent, Further Education and Other Local Authority school places.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1.7m underspend on transformation projects. • £1.6m underspend against the contingency budget. • £1.1m underspend due to Special Educational Needs Assessment and Review (SENAR) Team costs budgeted but not eligible to be funded from High Needs Block. This has been corrected for future year budget setting. 	
6.6	<p>Early Years (EY) Block: Xioa-Ming Hu reported a £1.4m Underspend</p> <p>The final 2021/22 DSG Early Years Block allocation is yet to be confirmed by the Department for Education (DfE), we have estimated that an additional £0.1m is owed to the local authority for 2021/22. Actual allocations are expected in July 2022. Schools Forum will be updated at the June meeting regarding the position.</p>	

1.	Welcome and apologies for absence.	
6.7	<p>The EY underspend was mainly due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The original estimate of DFE recovery of overpayment for Financial Year 2020/21 was £3.5m. The actual was £2.7m, £0.8m less than had been provided for. Other minor in-year underspends on Early Years totalling £0.5m. <p>Denise Fountain, referring to the funding for Developing Local Provision, asked how the impact of the spend was being measured and understood.</p> <p>Xioa-Ming Hu stated Julie Beattie was monitoring the spend.</p> <p>ACTION: monitoring the impact of and the accountability for the use of the DLP funding to be part of the SEND report at the October meeting.</p>	LA/JB
6.8	<p>The Chair queried the action related to underspends.</p> <p>Xioa-Ming Hu reported the underspends were part of the DSG reserves, were rolled over into the new financial year and were a part of the service review for each block.</p> <p>The Chair queried the cumulative carry forward figure.</p> <p>Xioa-Ming Hu reported currently only an in-year figure.</p> <p>ACTION: cumulative carry forward figure to be discussed at the October meeting.</p>	LA/X-MH
7.	Department for Education National Funding Formula Consultation	
7.1	<p>DfE Direct NFF consultation 7 June – 9 Sept 2022. Slides summarising the key areas in the consultation paper shown on screen at the meeting and circulated to members after the meeting.</p> <p>Members noted information available on the Government website.</p>	
7.2	<p>Malcom Green reported there would be a significant impact on Jaswinder Didiaily and her team dealing with growth and falling roles fund. Money left over would not be in place for schools. The 5% and 8% balances would not be considered in relation to falling rolls and growth funding.</p> <p>Direct NFF removed flexibility over allocations to schools.</p>	
7.3	<p>Sean Delaney, referring to the consultation, asked if there was modelling on the options and if 'winners' and 'losers' had been identified.</p> <p>Malcolm Green stated it was too early to do specific modelling and only looked at schools with split sites (seven in Birmingham). There would be a significant change for PFI formula schools.</p>	
8.	Forward Plan 2022-23	

1.	Welcome and apologies for absence.	
8.1 8.2	<p>DRAFT Schools Forum work programme 2022/23 circulated before the meeting. Proposed meeting dates Thursday 20th October 2022 2-4pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 15th December 2022 2-4pm Thursday 19th January 2023 2-4pm Thursday 16th March 2023 2-4pm Thursday 22nd June 2023 2-4pm</p> <p>Xioa-Ming Hu reported the proposed programme was for five meeting aligned with the publication of key documents. Terms of reference: Schools forum had a constitution. The constitution was reviewed on an annual basis by a member of BCC legal team.</p> <p>Pam Garrington suggested SEND update be added to the agenda for the June meeting. Agreed. The Chair proposed Teams meetings to be set up in advance. ACTION: Lisa Fraser to support the circulation of invitations.</p>	LA/LF
9.	Any Other Business	
9.1	<p>Simon Bartlett asked if a formal induction procedure/access to training was available for new members. The Chair reported a presentation that included the rationale for Schools Forum and Schools Forum powers and responsibilities was given in November 2021 and suggested re-running the session on a separate date. ACTION: a date/time for the presentation to be arranged.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all those present for their support and hard work.</p> <p><u>Date of next meeting:</u> Thursday 20th October 2022 2-4pm</p>	LA/LF
	The meeting closed at 3.15pm	