

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM
17th May 2022

MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY, 8TH MARCH 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D Judson (Swift Academies (Chair)); P Ayto (Reid Street (Vice Chair); M Butler (Education Village); P King (Fed of Mowden Schools); S Welsh (Whinfield Primary); H Dummett (Federation of Darlington Nursery Schools); J Blackham (Mount Pleasant); P Richardson (Head of Skills & Employability); J Skirving (Bishopton Redmarshall CofE, CE Diocese); J Moorhouse (Carmel RC College, RC Diocese); K Reid (Polam Hall); M Ramsay (St Johns Academy), M Shorten (Carmel); N Gibbon (St Aidans Academy); M Fryer (Hummersknott); P Norman (St Bedes RC)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

E Clennell (Finance Manager); J Aconley-Foster (Finance Officer)

APOLOGIES

Councillor Clarke; Sally Hudson (Rise Carr College), Tony Murphy (Assistant Director Education & Inclusion)

1. Welcome, Introduction & Register/Declaration of business interests

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Meeting 11th January 2022

Minutes were agreed from the previous meeting.

3. Budget Update 2021/22

The Finance Manager outlined the budget position for 2021/22 as per the previously circulated report.

There was a movement of a £17k pressure across the total budget which was highlighted by the finance manager.

High needs budget pressures were discussed. It was noted that there will potentially be some covid monies to offset against the high needs deficit, but this has not yet been confirmed. Members will be given an update around this at the next forum.

Recommendations

Forum noted the current budget position.

Forum noted the ongoing pressures within high needs budgets.

4. Supplementary High Needs Funding

Forum was made aware of supplementary high needs funding that has been made available to mainstream schools for rising utility costs and NI costs.

The LA has had discussions with other regional LAs on the distribution of the grant however further discussions need to be had to ensure fair distribution of the grant. It was noted that special schools have additional costs so a weighting exercise would need to be completed and applied to these schools.

To avoid cross border issues there is a consensus that each authority in the region will fund the children in their locality to avoid any cross-border confusion.

No decision was made on how to distribute the grant, this will be discussed at the next forum.

5. 2022/23 Academic Year Meeting Dates

The following dates for future school forum meetings were agreed:

Tuesday, 11th October 2022 - 2pm

Monday, 16th January 2023 - 2pm

Tuesday, 7th March 2023 – 2pm

Tuesday, 16th May 2023 – 2pm

6. Any Other Business

- No other business.

Date/Time/Location of next meeting

17th May 2022, 2pm – 5pm

Microsoft Teams