

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

8th October, 2013

PRESENT Keith Cotgrave (in the Chair), David Ackroyd (Northwood Primary School), Craig Alderson (High Coniscliffe Church of England Primary School), Christine Boyce (St Teresa's RC Primary School), Mike Fryer (Hummersknott Academy), David Hall (Darlington School of Maths and Science), Samantha Hirst (West Park Academy), Kay Kelly (Rise Carr College), Peter King (Corporation Road Community Primary School), Dean Judson (Hurworth School), Christine Large (St John's Church of England Academy), Lindsay Long (PVI), Elizabeth Charlton (PVI), Lynn Miller (Borough Road Nursery), Jennifer Moorhouse (Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle), Martin Proud (St Aidan's Academy), Paul Richardson, (Head of 16-19, Learning and Skills), Sue Richardson (Education Village – Beaumont Hill Academy), Mike Shorten (Carmel College), Catherine Thompson (West Park Academy) and Brian Watkinson (The Federation of Mowden Schools).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Cyndi Hughes

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jenni Cooke, Assistant Director – Children, Families and Learning, Rachel Kershaw, Head of School and Pupil Support Services, Brett Nielsen, Finance Manager Resources Department, Murray Rose, Director of People Services and Elaine Sayers, Finance Officer, Resources Department.

APOLOGIES -

DS20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

DS21. MINUTES – Submitted – the Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Forum, held on 11th June, 2013 and 2nd July, 2013.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be held as a correct record.

DS22. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2013/14 – The Finance Manager, Resources Department submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2013/14.

The Finance Manager reported that since the last meeting of this Forum there had been a change to the DSG allocation and, in accordance with requirements, this Forum was required to be updated prior to the statement confirming the final DSG settlement being signed by the Chief Financial Officer of the Council.

It was reported that the required budget for 2013/14 had decreased by £1.3 million since last reported to this Forum and that reasons for that were contained in the submitted report.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

DS23. SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2014/15 – The Finance Manager, Resources Department submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the Darlington School Funding Formula factors for the 2014/15 financial year.

The Finance Manager reported that the publication by the Department for Education (DfE) of “New Steps Towards a Fairer System” in March 2012 which outlined the proposed changes to the way schools would be funded across the country, followed by, “Schools Funding Reform: Arrangements for 2013-14” in June 2012, which detailed the way schools would be funded from April 2013, had changed school funding. As a result from this there was a requirement to change the way funding was allocated to schools in Darlington, moving from a funding formula with over thirty factors to a funding formula with less than ten factors in line with the new national criteria.

The submitted report highlighted the work officers had been undertaking in light of the new national criteria and gave Members of the Forum a large number of Formula models for consideration to go forward with.

The Finance Manager highlighted to the Forum that Model 55 is provisional and would be finalised using the October census, in January 2014.

RESOLVED – (a) That thanks be extended to The Finance Manager, Resources Department.

(b) That the payment arrangements concerning additional needs detailed at paragraphs 71 to 93 of the submitted report, be approved.

(c) That the funding formula factors for 2014/15 as per paragraph 128 and 129 of the submitted report, be approved.

(d) That the movement in funding within the Prior Attainment factor be approved

(e) That the insertion of a Sparsity factor, be approved

(f) That the Sparsity factor lump sum be set at £35,000, be approved

(g) That there will be no de-delegations introduced in 2014/15, be approved

(h) That the cap on gains being set at the maximum allowable level, be approved

(i) That from the above approvals (b-h) the submission of model 55, as the provisional formula for Darlington, be approved.

(j) That the meeting of the Forum to be held on 4th February, 2014 be moved forward to 14th January, 2014 to allow any update to be circulated to the Forum before the final submission date 21st January, 2014.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – (1) Discussion ensued on the possible changes to Polam Hall School.