

**Meeting of the Schools Forum  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 at 11.00 a.m.  
at Hawkley Hall High School**

**Members:** A.P. Hardy (Chair) E. Loftus , S. Bruen, F. Quinlivan, D. Winstanley, G. Hayes, H. Ahmed (deputising for V. Birchall) H. Phillips, A. McGlown, A. Birchall, R. Halford, K. Pilkington, A. Isherwood and A Wells.

**Observers:** Cllr J. Platt (Cabinet member) C. Gore (UNISON) and M. Atkins (NUT)

**LA Officers:**

K. Rufo - Service Manager  
J. McDonald (Strategic Finance Manager)  
C. Myers (Group Finance Manager)  
F. Gore (Clerk)

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from V. Birchall, R. Lewis, J. Holland, P. McGhee and T. Warren (members) and S. Wilson (observer).

**2. Items for inclusion under AOB**

None.

**3. Minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016:**

**It was agreed:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2016 be approved as a true and correct record.

**Matters Arising:**

None.

**4. Schools National Funding Formula – Response to Consultation.**

The Chair reminded members that the meeting had been convened to consider the Forum's response to the recent consultation paper issued by the Department for Education on the introduction of a National Funding Formula. The draft timetable was based on the implementation of the new Formula from September 2017 whereby the LA would distribute the funding in 2017-18 and 2018-19 and then funding would go directly to schools from 2019-20

The consultation would be in two stages with the first stage focusing on the principles that would underpin the formula and the pupil characteristics and school factors that would be included in the formula. The consultation period for Phase 1 would end on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Members believed this would pose a

challenge for schools wishing to respond directly having regard to the forthcoming Easter holiday period.

Details of the proposals had been issued via the DfE website and a series of questions asked in relation to the proposals.

Members considered the questions and reached a shared view on the Forum's response.

On several questions members noted that it was hard to reach a firm conclusion without having the information available on the potential financial implications and the detail of what was under consideration that could impact on the final funding allocations to schools.

Members noted the possible impact of future changes on aspects relating to growth and that it could be necessary to reconsider the decision taken at the last meeting on the use of funding for growth over the period 2016-19.

A consultation process had begun in respect of a planned reform of High Needs Funding. It was suggested that this would require detailed discussion with Special Schools and other affected parties before a response could be prepared. Members expressed concern at the possible impact of changes in funding for special units in mainstream schools (Question 10).

**It was agreed:** (1) That the Chair be authorised to submit the Forum's response to Phase 1 of the consultations on a National Funding Formula by the deadline of 17 April 2016.

(2) That the views of members of the Forum and other interested parties be sought on the proposed reforms to High Needs Funding and the Chair be authorised to sign-off the Forum's response by the deadline of 17 April 2016.

## **5. AOB**

None.

## **6. Date and time of next meeting – 12 May 2016 at 1.30 p.m. at Hawkley Hall High School**

meeting closed at 12.25 p.m.