

MINUTES of the meeting of Herefordshire Schools Forum held at Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford HR1 1SH on Monday 12 March 2012 at 9.30 am

Present: Mr NPJ Griffiths (Vice Chairman in the Chair)

Mr A Teale, Mrs JS Powell, Mr JA Chapman, Mr P Burbidge, Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins, Mr N O'Neil, Mr S Woodrow, Mr S Pugh, Mrs J Cecil, Mr P Box, Mr S Matthews, Mrs J Baker, Mr TE Edwards, Mrs S Bailey, Mr J Docherty, Ms A Pritchard, Mr J Godfrey, Mr A Shaw, Dr M Goodman and Mr J Sheppard

In attendance: Councillors PD Price (Cabinet Member – Corporate Services and Education)

69. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr P Barns, Mr M Harrison, Mrs A Jackson, Ms T Kneale, Mrs R Lloyd, and Mrs K Rooke.

70. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Mr C Lewandowski substituted for Mr M Harrison.

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

72. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

73. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

74. REPORT OF THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP

The Forum considered a report from the Budget Working Group (BWG) on the following issue: Dedicated Schools Grant 2012/13 – proposals for delegation of Band 3 and Band 4 funding and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for approval.

The Forum had referred this issue to the BWG at its meeting on 24 February.

The Chairman of the BWG introduced the report reporting that the BWG considered the new proposal represented an equitable settlement for all schools.

The Schools Finance Manager presented the report.

RESOLVED:

THAT Schools Forum recommends to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Education amendments to the delegation proposals for Band 3 and Band 4 SEN funding as follows:

- (i) The delegation proposals for band 3 and band 4 funding should provide protection for primary and high schools by protecting the delegation formula against average spend over the previous three years and ensuring the delegated funding is subject to a minimum of known commitments in 2012/13 as set out in Option C of the appended report: Delegated proposals for Band 3 and Band 4 2012/13;**
- (ii) the £100K previously proposed to be set aside for Minimum Funding Guarantee protection be added to the retained £234k available for primary new band 4 and part band 3 funding as part of the increased funding for special educational needs in 2012/13 and be used to support any higher than anticipated applications including those for March 2012; and**
- (iii) that the protection for known commitments should be reduced over a four year period by a quarter each year to further protect existing pupils in Key Stage 2 moving onto high schools.**

75. LATE ITEMS/ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were none.

The meeting ended at 9.42 am

CHAIRMAN