

## Walsall Council Schools Forum

**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 13 December 2022 at 4.00 pm**

Digital Meeting via Microsoft Teams

### **Schools Forum Members Present:**

Mr M. Vlahakis	Primary Head Teacher, Cadmus Family of schools
Mrs C. Draper	Primary Head Teacher, Short Heath Federation
Mrs A. Arnold	Primary Head Teacher, Delves Infant School
Mrs J. Garratt	Primary Head Teacher, Walsall Wood
Mr S. Davies	Primary Head Teacher, Christ Church CE (C) JMI School
Mrs N. Boys	Primary Academy Head Teacher, Lodge Farm
Mr A. Seager	Secondary Academy Head Teacher, Bloxwich Academy
Mr W. Downie	Secondary Academy Head Teacher, Streetly Academy
Mrs L. Foster	Primary Governor, Short Heath Federation
Mr M. Fox	Primary Governor, Kings Hill Primary
Mr I. Baker	Secondary Academy Governor, Grace Academy
Mrs E. Phillips	Academy Special School, Phoenix Academy
Ms M. Turley	Nursery Head Teacher, Ogley Hay Nursery
Mr S. Pritchard-Jones	Pupil Referral Unit representative

### **Officers Present:**

Mrs S. Kelly – Director of Access and Inclusion  
Mr R. Walley – Technical Accounting, Treasury Management & Education Finance Manager  
Mr L. Haynes – Head of Finance – Technical & Transactional  
Mr N. Picken – Principal Democratic Services Officer

**Observers Present:** None

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1. 13.12.22</b>	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explaining and rules of procedure and legal context in which the meeting was being held. He also directed members of the public viewing the meeting to the papers, which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information System (CMIS) webpage.</p> <p>A roll call was taken of those members present who confirmed they could both see and hear the proceedings.</p>	

<p><b>2.</b> <b>13.12.22</b></p>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>An apology for absence had been received from Mr Moody and Mr Hopkins.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p><b>3.</b> <b>13.12.22</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes – 26 September 2022 and 18 October, 2022</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the meetings held on 26 September 2022 and 18 October, 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b> <b>13.12.22</b></p>	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 and 18 October, 2022</b></p> <p><b>26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022</b> – Officers confirmed that all actions had been undertaken. The Head of Short Heath Federation clarified that the specialist provision working group was yet to be established.</p> <p><b>18<sup>th</sup> October, 2022</b> – No matters arising.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p><b>5.</b> <b>13.12.22</b></p>	<p><b>Late Item/s (urgent) to be introduced by the Chair</b></p> <p>There were no late items.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b> <b>13.12.22</b></p>	<p><b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)</b></p> <p>There were no items for consideration in the private session.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b> <b>13.12.22</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Mainstream Schools Local Funding Formula 2023/24</b></p> <p>A report was submitted:-</p> <p>(See annexed)</p> <p>A discussion ensued between members of the Forum and the Head of Finance – Technical and Transactional. During which it was questioned why there were several options, as this was perceived as confusing, and option 5 was recommended. The Head of Finance – Technical and Transaction clarified the position in respect of the number of options and confirmed that option 5 was recommended based on the majority of pupils.</p> <p>The options were debated taking into account the impact of each on the Primary and Secondary sectors. The Head of Finance – Technical and Transaction stated that under any of the proposed options that were modelled, all schools, other than those who were previously formally expanded but are now full in each year group, would gain money (though modelled</p>	

	<p>options were based on October 2021 census and actual allocations for 2023/24 will be based on October 2022 census so schools who see reduction in pupil number or changes in characteristics may see reductions in funding, as they always have for these reasons, when actual allocations are calculated). The difference between the modelled options related to the distribution of gains.</p> <p>The Head of Finance – Technical and Transaction clarified that whilst Schools Forum were consulted on a preferred option, the decision would be made by Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2022. As such, any decision which did not represent the majority of pupils would benefit from the inclusion of reasons for that decision as this would provide Cabinet with context when considering the matter.</p> <p>A member of the Forum requested the vote now be put as follows:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">That Schools Forum recommend funding option 5 to be used as the basis of the Schools Funding Formula for 2023/24, which will be reported to Cabinet at their meeting on 14 December 2022.</p> <p>A roll call was undertaken by the Clerk who confirmed that the recommendation was <b>lost</b> (3 in favour and 11 against)</p> <p>The following recommendation was then put to the meeting:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Schools Forum recommend funding option 4 to be used as the basis of the Schools Funding Formula for 2023/24, which will be reported to Cabinet at their meeting on 14 December 2022; and</li> <li>2. That the Chair be authorised to agree the wording of the reasons for the decision with the Clerk for submission to Cabinet.</li> </ol> <p>A roll call was undertaken by the Clerk who confirmed that the recommendation was <b>carried</b> (11 in favour and 2 against)</p>	<p>NP to:- - agree wording with LH and MV for submission to Cabinet; and - circulate decision of Cabinet to Schools Forum.</p>
<p><b>8.</b> <b>13.12.22</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>The Chair referred to correspondence from Primary Forum to which the Clerk outlined the content thereof and confirmed that a response had been sent.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b> <b>13.12.22</b></p>	<p><b>Forward Plan</b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p>	

	That the Forward Plan be noted.	
<b>10. 13.12.22</b>	<p><b>Late Items</b></p> <p><b>Timeliness of EHCP's and Annual Reviews</b></p> <p>Mrs Draper explained that updates on EHCP's and Annual Reviews was helpful as it enabled those on Schools Forum to feedback to other bodies to give an updated position. It was asked whether these updates would continue. The Director of Access and Inclusion advised that SEN development formed part of the Walsall Learning Alliance Agenda, which was represented by all sectors. There was an item in the Forward Plan for Schools Forum to hear from Walsall Learning Alliance, which provided opportunity for Schools Forum to remain updated.</p>	
<b>11. 13.12.22</b>	<p><b>Date and Time of next meeting</b></p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 17 January 2022 at 4.00pm</p>	

The meeting terminated at 5.05 pm.

Signed .....

Date: .....