



Minutes

Name of meeting	SCHOOLS' FORUM
Date and time	4.00pm – Tuesday, 10th December 2019
Venue	Wight Innovation Centre, St Cross Business Park, Newport PO30 5WB
Present	Beverley Gilbert – Brading CE Primary (Chair) Noreen Ward – Christ the King College Richard Bridgford – Isle of Wight Education Federation (Substitute) David Thornton – Carisbrooke and Newport CEPs Federation (Vice-Chair) Duncan Mills – Cornerstone Federation Lisa Nicholson – Haylands Primary School Fidelma Washington – Isle of Wight College Caroline Sice – Lanesend Primary Academy Julie Stewart – Medina House School Jackie Boxx – Island Learning Centre
Officers	Brian Pope – Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion Barry Downer - Senior Finance Business Partner Irina Rowan – Finance Business Partner Tracey Sanders – Head of Services for Young Children Anita Pitman – SEN Service Manager Cllr Paul Brading – Cabinet Member for Children’s Services Diane Hiscock – Clerk
Apologies	Mike Hayward – Isle of Wight Education Federation Gordon Kendall – Bembridge CE Primary School Sarah Hussey – Northwood Primary Academy Jayne Hill – Niton and Brighstone Pre-Schools

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members and officers were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were received prior to the meeting

4. MINUTES

It was noted that the draft minutes of the meeting held on [21 November 2019](#) were made available for this meeting for information.

5. HIGH NEEDS BUDGET UPDATE [Paper B](#)

It was confirmed that Paper B had been circulated along with a **Q and A** paper covering questions received, for a meeting of the headteachers forum, which took place immediately before this meeting.

5.1 BD had given an overview of the paper to headteachers and was able to answer questions raised at that meeting. Headteachers were asked to give a formal response to the recommendation that a request be submitted to the Department of Education (DfE) to transfer 1.5% from the 2020/21 schools block allocation towards high needs block pressures.

5.2 Headteachers acknowledged the difficult financial situation, but hoped that other options could be explored. As the DfE plan to change the regulations so that Local Authorities (LAs) will not be able to contribute to deficits in school funding, it was felt that this could be a final opportunity to call on the LA for financial support. Therefore, a 0.75% transfer, matched by an equal contribution from the LA was suggested by headteachers.

Officers explained that such an arrangement would have an impact on the overall Children's Services budget and may result in further cuts to services for schools.

5.3 Headteachers had also asked if any funding from possible closure of a school in the West Wight would be transferred back into the DSG.

It was confirmed that this would more likely result in a deficit that would need to be addressed.

5.4 Members discussed the 4 options given in Paper B and the impact of these over the longer term in more depth.

5.5 It was agreed that headteachers had now been able to hold more informed discussion, with information provided in Paper B and at the meeting prior to this meeting. Headteacher representatives still felt that there was too little information on the forecast for future years, although it was confirmed that this is a year-on-year decision. The outcome was that headteachers would continue to support a transfer of 0.5%, as noted in the minutes of the schools forum meeting held on 21 November.

5.6 The LA would have to decide on whether to apply to the DfE for a transfer greater than 0.5% or to look at other options to address the deficit. It was confirmed that the DfE will require a recovery plan to be put in place.

RESOLVED:

That the schools forum do not support a disapplication request to the DfE to transfer 1.5% from the 2020/21 schools block allocation towards high needs block pressures.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 15 January 2020 at Thompson House, Sandy Lane, Newport PO30 3NA

DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday 19 March 2020

All meetings start at 8.30am

Westridge Community Learning Centre, Brading Road, Ryde PO33 1QS

The meeting closed at 16.20pm