

# Swindon Borough Council

## Schools Forum

**Tuesday, 24 February 2009**

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices at 5.00 p.m.

### **School Members:**

Lauren Connor, Primary Headteachers (Chair)  
Nick Capstick, Primary Headteachers  
Chris Davis, Primary Headteachers  
Debbie Kalyuka, Primary Headteachers  
Terri Menham, Primary Headteacher  
Paul Boyles, Primary Governor  
Mr David Easter, Primary Governor  
Heidi Teague, Primary Governor  
Peter Crockett, Special Headteachers  
Steve Colledge, Secondary Headteacher  
Rachael Matthey, Secondary Headteacher  
Peter Wells, Secondary Headteacher  
Clive Zimmerman, Secondary Headteacher  
John Newman, Secondary Governor  
Kevin Gray, Secondary Governor

### **Non-School Members:**

Sally Inskip, Diocese Representative  
Rhian Cockwell, Diocese Representative (Deputy)  
Phil Baker, Trade Union Representative  
Debbie Waldron, Early Years Representative  
Cathy Parker, Early Years Representative (Deputy)  
Jan Downie, 14-19 Partnership

### **Committee Officer:** Helen Harris

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Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

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## **AGENDA**

### **PART 1 (PUBLIC ITEMS)**

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

#### **2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

### 3. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public

*Certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information and the Schools Forum is, therefore, recommended to resolve "That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".*

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Paragraph No.</u>
<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

### 4. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Schools Forum will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 4 pm. This is an additional meeting to discuss the Dedicated Schools Grant.

## PART 2 (TO BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT)

### 5. Single Status Update (DHRC-B) (Pages 5 - 14)

Attached for information is the public report on Single Status that was considered by Cabinet. An exempt report providing the latest update for schools is to follow.

**Date of Despatch:** 16 February 2009

### Key:

### **Officers:**

GDC                      Group Director: Children  
DHRC-B       -       Director of Human Resources and Change

**Public Question Time** - Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and Democratic Services is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.

**Access Arrangements** – The Venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Clerk above, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

**SCHOOLS FORUM**

**TUESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2009**

PRESENT: -

**School Members:** Nick Capstick, Primary Headteacher  
Lauren Connor, Primary Headteacher  
Chris Davis, Primary Headteacher  
Debbie Kalynka, Primary Headteacher  
Terri Menham, Primary Headteacher  
Paul Boyles, Primary Governor  
Mr David Easter, Primary Governor  
Steve Colledge, Secondary Headteacher  
Rachael Matthey, Secondary Headteacher  
Peter Wells, Secondary Headteacher  
Clive Zimmerman – Secondary Headteacher

**Non-School Members:** Sally Inskip, Diocese Representative  
Phil Baker, Trade Union Representative  
Debbie Waldron, Early Years Representative

**Officers:** Ian Bickerton (Director Access and Provision), Paddy Bradley (Director of Schools and Learning), Sue Wald (Director Strategy and Commissioning), Stuart McKellar (Director of Finance), Karen Murray (Group Finance Manager Children's Services), Nicki Archer (Deputy Group Finance Manager Schools), Carmel Burton (Sure Start Partnership Manager), Mark Green (Integrated Service Manager), Peter Holbourne (Advisory Teacher)

Apologies for absence were received from Jan Downie (14-19 Partnership) and Pete Crockett.

**19. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008 be accepted as a correct record.

**20. Feedback from Meeting on 16 October 2008**

Ian Bickerton (Director of Access and Local Provision) presented a report by the Group Director Children's Services to provide feedback on the recommendations made at the previous meeting.

It was noted that, at the last meeting, the Forum did not support the proposal on the Forest Schools Initiative and asked that further consideration should be given to this issue. Discussions have since taken place and it has been decided, in consultation with the Chair of the Forum, not to pursue this matter. Information that had been

received about this initiative was circulated.

Sue Wald advised that a Steering Group had recently been established with regard to Parent Support Advisors.

## **21. Schools Block Budget Monitoring 2008/09**

The Group Director, Children's Services submitted a report concerning the latest budget monitoring information to the end of November 2008 in respect of the Schools Block Budget for 2008/09.

It was noted that the projected year end overspend of £276k presented to the Forums October meeting had now increased to £511k as at the end of November 2008, an increase of £235k. In addition to this the additional £747k of DSG funding on the non-schools budgets agreed at the October meeting has resulted in the Central Expenditure Limit being in breach of the Section 52 Statement 2008/09 report.

The Forum and LA were not aware of the breach when budget decisions were made at the October meeting, it was only when the Section 52 statement had to be resubmitted with the additional allocations included that the breach of the central expenditure limit was identified.

It was commented that there was a major difficulty in making budget decisions based on estimated figures in February / March. However, as the Department for Children, Schools and Families do not confirm final DSG figures until June and a budget has to be set by the end of March then this is unavoidable at present.

Further work has been carried out on the Recoupment budget following the identification of a budget pressure of £492k. This has identified a significant additional budget pressure in the area. Further detailed work is needed to be able to accurately state the full amount of the pressure. This will be available in the next monitoring report. There was a consensus that more accurate forecasting on the Recoupment budget need to be undertaken.

It was noted that of the additional £747k budget that was agreed at the last Schools Forum meeting that there would be potential savings of £147k in the current financial year, £55k of this is already included in the main monitoring report. This would reduce the overall DSG overspend to £419k. The savings identified are on School Meals, the Secondary Behaviour Support Team, Stepping Forward and Forest Schools.

Resolved – (1) That the 2008/09 financial projections in respect of the Schools Budget for the current financial year be noted.

(2) That the Group Director Children Services continue rigorous and robust monitoring of the Schools Block budget and to bring budget monitoring reports to future meetings of the Schools Forum Sub-Group.

(3) That to coincide with budget timetables Officers investigate ensuring that the Schools Forum meets at the beginning of September 2009.

## **22. Funding of Special Equipment**

The Group Director Children's Services submitted a report concerning the increasing pressures on the budget to fund special equipment for children and

young people with disabilities.

The Chair on behalf of ASSSH made the following comments:

What is being requested should be deemed an entitlement on human rights ground for a cohort of pupils with low incidence and severe/complex individual needs. Without the equipment this funding will provide these pupils will not have the remotest chance of fulfilling their innate potential nor of accessing the curriculum in a way which allows them to experience meaningful success.

It was noted that the Schools Forum Sub-Group had recommended that the PCT should part-fund this budget increase.

Resolved – (1) That the Special Equipment budget be increased to £143,000 for the 2009/10 budget.

(2) That proportionate funding be explored from within Health and the PCT.

(3) That a further report be submitted to the April meeting of this Forum showing a breakdown of funding from the PCT.

### **23. Set-up Funding for New Schools.**

The Group Director, Children's Services submitted a report concerning the provision of set-up funding for new schools.

Resolved – (1) That the future programme of new and additional schools that will require set-up funding to be made available, as set out in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 and Appendix of the report be noted.

(2) That consideration of the possibility of the widening of the eligibility of set-up funding for new schools, together with its implications for the DSG be deferred until the March meeting of the Forum.

### **24. BESD (Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties) Review**

The Cabinet Member for Children and the Group Director Children's Services submitted a joint report concerning the outcome of the review into provision and support for children and young people with Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) in Swindon.

Resolved – (1) That the report into the provision and support for children and young people with BESD (Appendix A) be noted.

(2) That the proposed actions (appendix B) to the report be noted.

### **25. Review of the Support for Ethnic Minority Achievement in Swindon**

The Director of Schools and Learning submitted a report concerning the outcome of the review into support for ethnic minority achievement in Swindon.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted

(2) That a Working Party be established to develop options for providing support for ethnic minority achievement in response to the recommendations of the review and comprising the following members:

Rachael Matley  
Lauren Conner  
Nick Capstick  
Peter Wells

Paddy Bradley  
Karen Murray

## **26. Early Years Flexible Offer**

The Group Director Children's Services submitted a report on the outcome of consultation on proposed changes to funding early years free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds.

It was noted there had been 24 responses from a possible 82.

Resolved – (1) That the funding timetable as set out in Option 1 of Proposal 1 contained within Appendix A be agreed.

(2) That the report be noted and the Proposals 1 – 6 contained within Appendix A to the report be accepted.

## **27. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Budget 2009-10**

Karen Murray submitted a report concerning the draft Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2009/10.

The 2008/09 DSG budget was the first year of a 3 year settlement from the Government which gives all schools a minimum funding guarantee increase of 2.1% per pupil per annum. The items that the DSG can be spent on are prescribed by legislation and primarily represent funding for maintained schools, although certain centrally retained items are also included. It is a requirement that the Schools Forum is consulted on DSG budget proposals for 2009/10.

If the budget pressures identified in the current financial year continue in 2009/10 and the overspend of £511k in 2008/09 is the final position at the end of the financial year then there will be a deficit budget of £335k in 2009/10. The Local Authority is unable to set a deficit budget so will do further work to achieve a balanced budget.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That a special meeting of the Schools Forum be arranged in mid March to discuss the final DSG 2009/10 budget.

(3) That a special meeting of the Schools Forum be arranged to discuss Single Status.

## **28. Standards Funds 2009/10**

The Group Director Children's Services submitted a report concerning updated Standards Fund allocations for 2009/10.

Resolved – That the revised Standards Fund allocations for 2009/10 and 2010/11 attached at Appendix A to the report be noted.

## Agenda Item 5

By virtue of paragraph(s) 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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