
SCHOOLS FORUM

<u>In attendance</u>	
<u>Chair and Vice Chair</u>	
Harry Kutty	Headteacher – Cantell - Chair
Peter Howard	Headteacher – Fairisle Junior – Vice Chair
<u>Primary Schools</u>	
Mike Adams	Headteacher – Bitterne Manor Primary School
Peter Howard	Headteacher – Fairisle Junior
PK Macbride	Primary Governor – Bannister
John Draper	Headteacher – Swaythling Primary
<u>Secondary Schools</u>	
Jim Henderson	Headteacher Woodlands Community College
Roger Peplow	Governor St Georges
<u>Academy</u>	
Kevin Bennett	Freemantle Church of England Community Academy
Sean Preston	Hamwic Trust
<u>Special Schools</u>	
Andy Evans	Headteacher – Great Oaks School
<u>Observers</u>	
Councillor Winning	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services
<u>SCC officers</u>	
Steve Wade	Finance Business Partner
Clodagh Freeston	Service Manager - Education Strategy, Planning and Improvement
Juno Hollyhock	Interim Service Manager - Special Educational Needs and Disability
Kiraveer Kaur	Finance Analyst
Zoe Snow	

1. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

Forum Members elected Harry Kutty as chair and Peter Howard as Vice Chair.

In addition the Forum welcomed Kevin Barnett as an Academy representative.

2. **STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

The new Chair thanked John Draper on behalf of the Forum for all of his hard work a Chair over the past years.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved that minutes of the previous meeting were agreed with the following amendment

The forum noted that the allocation of funding set out in item 2 of the minutes was in fact £245,000 and not £245m.

The Forum noted that the detail of funding allocated from the Central School Services Block should be included into future financial breakdowns in order to better understand the relevance of the allocations and any potential choices.

4. **STANDING ITEM: LA UPDATE ON DFE/ESFA FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Forum considered the briefing paper from the Finance Business Partner detailing matters relating to: the Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG); the Central Services Block; the High Needs Block and the Use of surplus funds.

Members requested that a clearer understanding of how fundings were used and calculated within the Central Services Block in order to enable a clear and rational understanding of who the money was attributed.

Members were keen to understand how the recent restructuring had potentially affected the budget and whether there were any potential financial adjustments resulting from the restructure.

Members discussed the need for an assurance that the redesign of services wouldn't affect the provision of services and that there was an absolute clarity of what was being provided and the costs.

Members also discussed how and in what way the pressures of the High needs Block had been projected into this financial year and the potential for any savings.

RESOLVED

1. That officers be requested to provide clear understanding of the calculations used in assessing how the Central Services Block and how fundings were allocated.
2. That officers provide potential options for the allocation of any surplus funding.

5. **SCHOOLS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY**

The Forum considered a briefing paper setting out an understanding of the financial situation of maintained schools across the City.

Members discussed the level of deficit across schools and numbers of schools that had a deficit. It was requested that a further report come to a future meeting.

It was how the principle of the Authority's Deficit Recovery Plan were enacted and the potentials for short term support from the Authority. The Forum noted that any DRP should be equitable and fair so that all schools could understand them and requested that a formula with worked examples be provided.

6. **SEND UPDATE**

The forum discussed and report of the Interim Head of SEND detailing matters relating to Dingley's Promise, Cluster Funding and Special Schools bandings within the City.

It was noted that the special early intervention provided by Dingley's Promise would be granted a contract extension due to a slight delay in the commencement of the original contract. The Forum was briefed on the numbers of children involved and the potential for financial savings. It was noted that as a result of the extension to the summer of 2027 it would enable cohorts of children to transition and in the mainstream and it would show you effective the pathway back into mainstream had been.

The Forum was informed of the appointment of a specialist to further explore the Mainstream Cluster Funding programme and model for SEND.

The Forum was also briefed on the progress of the review and updating of special school bandings in the City.