

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH DECEMBER 2024

PRESENT:

Primary Schools	
John Draper	Headteacher – Swaythling Primary
Peter Howard	Headteacher – Fairisle Junior (Vice-Chair)
Mac Macbride	Primary Governor – Banister
Maria Whitmarsh	Oaklands Primary School (Added 11 December 2024)
Secondary Schools	
Jim Henderson	Headteacher Woodlands Community College
Harry Kutty	Headteacher – Cantell (Chair)
Roger Peplow	Governor St Georges
Academy	
Sean Preston	Hamwic Trust
Special Schools	
Andy Evans	Headteacher – Great Oaks School
Ben Penfold	Acting Headteacher – Vermont School
Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	
Debbie McKenzie	Headteacher – Compass School
Early Years Provision	
Anna Wright	PVI for Early Years
Non-Schools	
Rob Sanders	Diocese of Winchester
Non-voting attendees	
Observers	
Bruno Duckworth-Russell	NEU (Added 28/11/24 following Teachers Liaison Panel)
SCC Officers	

Clodagh Freeston	Head of Education Services
Juno Hollyhock	Service Manager - Special Educational Needs and Disability
Darrin Hunter	Early Years Manager
Zoe Snow	Strategic Lead for Education Access
Steve Wade	Finance Business Partner

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2024 be noted and approved as a correct record having noted the following amendments.

- i. Mike Adams was not present at the meeting.
- ii. Kevin Barnet had been noted as Bennet.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Forum agrees that all Members would complete the Declaration form and return to the Democratic Support Officer by 20 December 2024. Forms should be returned via AnyComms to Zoe Snow.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Forum received a verbal report from the Head of Education Services about vital partnerships across city, the provision of data and context of data to shape policy and practice across key areas. The Forum also received information about the Education redesign within SCC, which was in the early stages and going to consult in January. Priorities included –

- i. Reduction of absence, reduction of exclusions and raising attainment.
- ii. SEND demand.
- iii. Early Years support of a new suite of provision in line with Govt policy.
- iv. Helping schools in financial difficulty.

4. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP

The Forum considered membership and outstanding vacancies. It was agreed to follow up further membership for Academies.

5. MATTERS ARISING

In discussion of the Matters Arising the following was agreed:

To add names of members against matters arising items on future agendas.

a) Rationale/Impact of the transfer of funds from SB to CSSB:

- i. Impact reports to be submitted to January meeting about where money is going specifically, including information on funding to meet statutory requirements and the impact on children.
- ii. Decision to be made in January following due diligence and consultation.
- iii. Submit reports through the year on the impact on children in the city.

b) Impact of restructuring on budget - (CF)

Report to be submitted to the January Meeting.

c) Pressures on HN block and any potential impact planned or otherwise

- i. Updated table needed for the record.
- ii. Report to be submitted to the January meeting on the current position with high needs block and deficit. What is projected for next year and what the pressures are moving forward?

d) Schools in Deficit Grant - funding formula used.

Formula provided but SW to provide an in year forecast, to address specific information of deficit, recovery plans, and key criteria on allocating funding.

6. TRANSFER FROM SCHOOLS BLOCK

The Forum received a briefing paper on the Transfer from Schools Block. It was agreed that the vote would be carried forward to the January meeting once the Due Diligence had been carried out as per the Matters Arising.

7. TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT FOR PFI - DECISION REQUIRED

The Schools Forum was asked to vote on the Technical Adjustment for PFI schools. Following a discussion it was agreed that if there was no technical adjustment PFI schools would not be protected. The vote was carried unanimously.

8. UNION DE-DELEGATION

The Schools Forum was asked to vote on the de-delegation of schools budget to fund trade union activity. It was agreed that:

- i. Funding was in balance at present.
- ii. The vote would be moved to the January meeting.
- iii. SW and CF would discuss with HR, Union and TLP on the proposal on which to vote.

9. CHANGES TO THE SCC SEVERANCE & PENSIONS PAYMENTS: DISCRETIONARY EXCEPTIONS POLICY

The Forum discussed the changes to the SCC Severance & Pensions Payments: Discretionary Exceptions Policy and agreed that:

- i. CF would discuss with Chris Bishop what the process was, what it should be, and the current position.
- ii. CF would talk to Head of HR and CB and invite CB to the next meeting.
- iii. CF would forward PH's email to CB.

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

The Forum considered an update on any DFE/ESFA funding announcements.

11. NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA UPDATE

The Forum considered the briefing, which provided an overview of the recent 2025–26 Schools and High Needs National Funding Formula updates. The Forum noted that:

- i. There was no structural change to funding formula.
- ii. Increase of 2% central services block includes additional grants received this year in school budget grant.
- iii. High needs increase of 9%.
- iv. Govt announcement on increased funding of high needs.
- v. SPRB recommending that schools use efficiency to cover staff salary increase.

12. SCHOOLS FORUM FORWARD PLAN

The Forum considered the proposed forward plan of activity over the 2025/26 financial year.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS, CLOSING REMARKS AND MEETING DATES

It was noted that the All Phases Headteacher Meeting would take place on 21 January 2025.

It was agreed that CF would send out meeting information to everyone for the face to face meeting including the link for the hybrid meeting shared by the Chair of Governors.

Next Schools Forum meeting: Tuesday 21 January 2025, 4pm-6pm