

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday 16 September 2021 (via Teams)
Title of report:	Minutes of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum
Type of report:	For information only
Executive summary: Including reason for submission	The minutes of the previous meeting of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum are presented for approval.
Budget / Risk implications:	N/A
Recommendations:	The minutes are approved as an accurate record.
Voting requirements:	N/A
Appendices: To be attached	N/A
Report originator and contact details:	Marion Sadler – Clerk to the Schools Forum Tel: 01609 532234 E-mail: marion.sadler@northyorks.gov.uk
Presenting officer: If not the originator	N/A

PRESENT:

Chair:	Ian Yapp
Primary Headteachers:	Chris Parkhouse, Jillian Baker, Rob Campbell, Corinne Cross, Fiona Beetles, Karen O'Donnell
Secondary Headteachers:	Nick Hinchliffe
Nursery Headteacher:	
Special Headteacher:	Jonathan Tearle
Pupil Referral Service:	Josh Greaves
Academies:	Helen Flynn, Helen Channing, Andrew Krlic, Michelle Hockham, Helen Williams, Alison Kaye, Jane Turner, David Barber, Brian Crosby,
Governors:	
Early Years Providers:	

16-19 Providers:	Ann Hardy
Diocesan Representatives:	Emma Higgins, Andrew Smith
Trade Unions:	Chris Head
Observers:	Cllr. Patrick Mulligan, Cllr. Janet Sanderson, Anne Swift
In Attendance:	Nicola Raine (LA Stakeholder Engagement Team, DfE), Stuart Carlton, Howard Emmett, Sally Dunn, Jane Le Sage, Chris Reynolds, Martin Surtees, Jon Holden, Mandy Lambert (LSO Minute Taker), Deborah Wilbor (LSO)
Apologies:	Daniel Maguire, Charlotte Hope-Harrisson, Nick Styles, Francis Loftus, Michael Pettavel, Julia Polley, Katja Rudden

1011: WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Nichola Raine had joined the meeting from the DfE to assess the effectiveness of Schools Forum. It was noted that Jonathan Tearle would be attending his final meeting.

1012: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Circulated: A list of the current membership:

Current vacancies were outlined, 2 x primary LA, 1 x secondary LA, 1 x PRS LA, 1 x academy.

1013: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: With the addition of Corinne Cross to the attendance list, the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27 May 2021 be agreed as an accurate record.

1014: MATTERS ARISING

NOTED: There were no matters arising.

1015: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no notification of any other urgent business.

1016: SCHOOL FUNDING

CONSIDERED: A report providing an update on school funding describing the detail of recent announcements on central government education funding policy and high-level implications for 2022-23. The intention is to consult with schools and academies. A spending review would take place in autumn. A new sparsity funding paper will be drawn up with the size of the threshold year group outlined.

NOTED: The implications for school budgets for the 2022/23 financial year and implications for services and resources for schools funded by the Central Schools Services Block funding from April 2022.

The provision of an exceptional circumstance funding formula allocation of £50,000 for very small sparse secondary schools for 2022/23, and the associated funding source for this provision.

CONSIDERED:

- HF asked about the reference to not having enough consistent data. Are there other counties in a similar situation to North Yorkshire?
HE explained that the data for Cumbria was similar or slightly more schools attracting funding under this proposal. The information had been shared with the DfE and feel that the evidence had been provided.
- HC asked about the intention to consult schools and academies and whether consultations could be specific with a summary page first and the information behind to enable a higher response rate.

AGREED:

- (a) To note the update on school funding.
- (b) To note the intention to consult schools and academies on the potential formula implications for 2022-23 related to MFG and the methodology for the allocation to school budgets of any surplus funding available within the Schools Block DSG after the application of the NFF factor values in the North Yorkshire funding formula. It was noted that the consultation results would be reported back to the Schools Forum at the November meeting.
- (c) To note the proposed treatment of exceptions to the formula outlined in section 4.
- (d) To note the position on Central School Services Block outlined in section 7.

1017: FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING FOR ALL: COMPLETING OUR REFORMS TO THE NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA – DFE CONSULTATION

CONSIDERED: A presentation on the Fair School Funding for All.

NOTED: The principles and issues outlined along with the details of the consultation including the consultation dates (8 July 2021 – 30 September 2021), how to access the document and response details.

1018: PUPIL GROWTH AND FALLING ROLLS

CONSIDERED: A report providing an overview of the usage of the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Funds in the 2020/21 financial year, following the changes agreed by the Schools Forum and introduced for the both funds from September 2020. The report sets out the likely requirements on the Funds for the 2021/22 financial year.

NOTED: The financial implications for schools experiencing a significantly rising roll or a temporary reduction in pupil numbers and the affordability within the current funding limits of the two Contingency Funds.

- **CONSIDERED:**
HW asked about the eligibility for the funding and the estimated total in relation to academies. SD stated that the methodology for this would be reviewed.
- IY asked about the future years' funding and whether this could be looked at.
SD stated that future years would be considered.

AGREED:

- (a) To note the usage of the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Funds in the 2020/21 financial year as detailed in section 6.1 of this report.
- (b) To note the potential funding requirements for the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Funds for the 2021/22 financial year as detailed in section 6.2 of this report.

1019: EXCEPTIONAL RENTS FUNDING

CONSIDERED: A report providing a request for financial support for the backdated rents that are required to be paid by Hensall Community Primary School along with a request for approval for the school budget to be reimbursed for the backdated rent costs as the school would have been eligible for Exceptional Rents through the school funding formula for the period 2018/19 to 2021/22 based on the new rent costs. The reimbursement is proposed to be funded from the Schools in Financial Difficulty / Unreasonable School Expenditure de-delegated funding reserve (currently £531k). The value of the reimbursement (over £25k) requires approval.

➤ **CONSIDERED:**

HC asked about the huge increase in rent.

It was noted that the rent should have been reviewed every five years but had not and was the best amount agreed with the landlord.

➤ HC asked whose responsibility was it to have those conversations and should there have been a repayment plan.

SD explained that it was the landlord's responsibility to be raising the issue.

Conversations had been going on for over a year. It was noted that the impact on the school would be the same even with a repayment plan.

➤ JG asked if this was an in-year exceptional rent would it be eligible for funding.

SD explained that the decision was going through Schools Forum because of the value.

NOTED: Financial implications for the individual school budget being required to meet the significant backdated rent costs and a cost to the Schools in Financial Difficulty / Unreasonable School Expenditure de-delegated funding reserve (currently £531k).

AGREED: To approve the reimbursement of £44,788 to Hensall Community Primary School to cover the backdated rent costs incurred by the school as a result of the rent reviews undertaken on the playing field and school house. Comments to be fed back to Strategic Service officers to support the school achieve the best outcome.

1020: SCHOOL BALANCES

NOTED: A report summarising the position of school balances as at 31 March 2021 which compares school balances as at 31 March 2021 with the previous year and summarising the movement in revenue balances between years and between types of school. It shows the position of those schools, which had a negative revenue balance as at 31 March 2021.

CONSIDERED:

➤ HF asked about balances being carried forward.

SD explained that schools with excessive balances would be considered but there were no recommendations about level of balance.

➤ CH stated that there is only one way that individual schools can do anything about this problem and that is a redundancy consultation. He asked if the Census would have an impact and whether it would be helpful to provide the Teachers' Consultative Panel with Table 2 and any reasons why it could not be shared with the Panel meeting.

HE stated that the table could be shared and happy to attend the Teachers' Consultative Panel.

➤ HW asked what support was available to help schools with their school budgets. SD explained that the small rural secondary schools are the challenge. The LA is continuing to lobby the DfE about these schools and the LA is working closely

with these schools to identify efficiencies. In providing this support, reviews are taking place this coming term. This will help in terms of responses through to the DfE. A number of special schools are challenging and there are concerns around the level of funding received in North Yorkshire. The LA continues to lobby the DfE and work with schools to identify any efficiencies that can be introduced into their operations.

- HW asked if there would be benefitting in pairing schools up to help support them.
- JT asked whether there was data for special school academies. It was noted that this data is not shared with the LA.

AGREED: To note the position of school balances as at 31 March 2021.

1021: SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS

CONSIDERED: A report providing an update and requesting approval for the amendment of the North Yorkshire County Council Scheme for Financing Schools.

AGREED:

- (a) To note the DfE changes to the statutory guidance on Schemes for financing local authority maintained schools.
- (b) To approve the proposed DfE statutory amendment to the North Yorkshire County Council Scheme for financing Schools relating to licensed deficits.

1022: HIGH NEEDS UPDATE

CONSIDERED: A report highlighting the projected financial pressure in the High Needs Block in 2021/22 and subsequent years, and the specific challenges facing the Local Authority and schools. It provides information on SEND trends particularly around Education, Health and Care Plans and exclusions.

CONSIDERED:

- AH asked whether information could be sought around the post-16 SEND developments.
J-le-S suggested bringing this information into the next Schools Forum.
- IY explained the work going on in the background by the High Needs working party. Members were asked whether they would be interested in joining the group.
- RC asked about the EHCP level in North Yorkshire against the statistical neighbours.
J-le-S explained that North Yorkshire had always been lower than the national and statistical neighbours. This was around the rules around allocation. Since the reform, when requests come through North Yorkshire is higher than national average in terms of children assessed but not issuing plans for. This needs to be looked at going forward. The decision-making not to issue care plans would need to be reviewed. Information would be brought to a future Schools Forum.
- CR explained the graph showing the rate of increase, which demonstrates there, is no less need but shows that North Yorkshire is seeing the catch-up.

AGREED: To note the contents of the report.

1023: CARBON UPDATE

CONSIDERED: A presentation by Jon Holden.

NOTED: The broad overview of activity going on corporately with regard to schools including the NYCC Policy going forward including support of Government's aim for UK to be net carbon neutral by 2050. Executive has approved the NYCC Carbon

Reduction Plan in July 2021, which would aspire to achieve net carbon neutrality for its own emissions by 2030 or as close to that date as possible.

With regard to schools the capital issues were outlined including the context, capital allocation, revised guidance to be issued by the DfE later this year. Revenue issues were explained including delegated responsibility for revenue and premises management along with support through Energy and Sustainability Service.

CONSIDERED:

- BC asked about funding required for the whole estate.
JH suggesting starting with the backlog figure of £20-25m figure plus.
- HF explained about the Trust she is in and the category of a Green Trust. She suggested moving all the schools onto renewable electricity.

1024: LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION

AGREED: To defer the LGR item to the November meeting.

1025: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business had been raised.

1026: FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 11 November 2021 (Virtual)

Thursday 16 December 2021 (Virtual)

Thursday 20 January 2022

Thursday 17 March 2022

Thursday 19 May 2022

Thursday 22 September 2022

Thursday 17 November 2022

Thursday 15 December 2022 – if required