

**NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM**

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	Thursday 22 September 2022 (via Teams)
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Minutes of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum</b>
<b>Type of report:</b>	For information only
<b>Executive summary:</b> Including reason for submission	The minutes of the previous meeting of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum are presented for approval.
<b>Budget / Risk implications:</b>	N/A
<b>Recommendations:</b>	The minutes are approved as an accurate record.
<b>Voting requirements:</b>	N/A
<b>Appendices:</b> To be attached	N/A
<b>Report originator and contact details:</b>	Marion Sadler – Clerk to the Schools Forum Tel: 01609 532234 E-mail: <a href="mailto:marion.sadler@northyorks.gov.uk">marion.sadler@northyorks.gov.uk</a>
<b>Presenting officer:</b> If not the originator	N/A

**PRESENT:**

<b>Chair:</b>	Ian Yapp, Helen Flynn
<b>Primary Headteachers:</b>	Karen O'Donnell, Rob Campbell
<b>Secondary Headteachers:</b>	Nick Hinchliffe, Kath Jordan
<b>Nursery Headteacher:</b>	Michael Pettaval
<b>Special Headteacher:</b>	
<b>Pupil Referral Service:</b>	
<b>Academies:</b>	Helen Williams, Josh Greaves, Alison Kaye, Andrew Robinson (Sub), Helen Channing, Jane Turner
<b>Governors:</b>	Corinne Cross, Ray Wells, Paul Gibbons
<b>Early Years Providers:</b>	Charlotte Hope-Harrison
<b>16-19 Providers:</b>	

<b>Diocesan Representatives:</b>	
<b>Trade Unions:</b>	Sarah Carter, Anne Swift
<b>Observers:</b>	Councillor Annabel Wilkinson, Jordan Ingram (Education & Skills Funding Agency), Sam Williams (Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust)
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Howard Emmett, Sally Dunn, Martin Surtees, Mandy Lambert (LSO Minute Taker), Deborah Wilbor (LSO)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Dave Barber (Andrew Robinson attending as sub), Andrew Smith, Cllr Janet Sanderson, Jillian Baker, Anna Kirkham, Stuart Carlton

**1083: WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1084: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

***Circulated: A list of the current membership:***

Current vacancies were outlined, Primary (3), Secondary (2), Special School LA (1), LA PRS (1), Academy (2), 16-19 Education Provider (1) – Quorum is 40% of members.

**1085: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 May 2022 be agreed as an accurate record.

**1086: MATTERS ARISING**

NOTED: An update regarding the LA forming a Trust would be on the agenda for the next meeting in November.

**1087: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no notification of any other urgent business.

**1088: SCHOOL FUNDING UPDATE**

CONSIDERED: A report providing an update on school funding and describing the detail of recent announcements on central government education funding policy and high-level implications for 2023-24. The paper described the intention to consult schools and academies.

**NOTED:**

- (a) The background that the DfE have stated their expectation to move to the direct NFF by 2027-28 and the DfE plans for 2023-24 with regard to NFF.
- (b) Provisional funding arrangements had been received for 2023-24 with an overall increase of +1.9% although this is below current inflation.
- (c) The LA funding approach and the MFG options were explained within the report.
- (d) The timeline for a six-week consultation was outlined commencing on 28 September 2022 and ending on 9 November 2022. The outcome would be discussed at Schools Forum in November.
- (e) A separate pot of growth funding is available and will be utilised to provide funding for Pupil Growth and falling rolls.
- (f) Exceptions to the Formula were outlined and will need to be submitted to the DfE in mid-October or mid-November.

**(g) School cost pressures were also outlined.**

**NOTED:**

**(CC) Utility increases had been sent to schools but no oil increase information. It was noted that there may be some support in the energy scheme.**

**(IY) Suggested whether a letter be sent to the DfE including the context, which NYCC schools are facing. HE suggested including in the letter a description of the overall pressure on the LA schools and academies and to include some case studies.**

**(RW) Asked about the message to Headteachers regarding the energy issue. Information to Governing Bodies and Headteachers would be sent as soon as possible. The LA is happy to talk to individual schools around issues they have.**

**(AW) Opportunities to lobby MPs should also be taken.**

**(JG) It would be interesting for the Forum to understand the totality of the cost pressures.**

**(IY) Where does the School Improvement Service fit? HE explained that meetings had taken place with groups about the School Improvement de-delegation. A further meeting would take place prior to the next Schools Forum.**

**AGREED:**

- (a) That Schools Forum notes the contents of the report.**
- (b) To provide support for the continued provision of an exceptional circumstance funding formula allocation of £50,000 for very small sparse secondary schools for 2023/24.**
- (c) To note the proposed treatment of exceptions to the formula outlined in Section 4, and to support the submission of a new exceptional circumstances disapplication request to the DfE to provide funding for those schools where property rental is essential for the delivery of statutory educational provision and, where the rental cost is greater than 1% of the school's delegated budget.**
- (d) To note the intention to consult schools and academies on the potential formula implications for 2023-24 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. The consultation results would be reported back to the Schools Forum at the November meeting.**
- (e) To note the position on Central School Services Block outlined in Section 8.**

#### **1089: HIGH NEEDS UPDATE**

**CONSIDERED:** A report providing an update on issues pertinent to the development of the High Needs Block budget for the Local Authority 2023-24, including the determination of Special School budgets.

**NOTED:**

- (a) NYCC has been invited to participate in the DBV programme. Discussions will be developed through the High Needs Funding subgroup.**
- (b) The High Needs Operational Guidance 2023-24.**
- (c) A review of the overall High Needs Budget is being undertaken to develop into a five-year financial model.**

**NOTED:**

**(JG) MFG feedback would be welcome.**

AGREED: To note the information contained within the report and identify any issues for further discussion within the High Needs Sub Group.

#### **1090: SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

CONSIDERED: A report following a review undertaken to ensure that membership composition continues to reflect the make-up of schools and academies in North Yorkshire. It proposes a refined composition and for the Constitution to be updated accordingly.

**NOTED:**

**(CC) Does the maintained school and academy split represent the split of schools in North Yorkshire. This was confirmed.**

**(PG) Does the split represent Federations? HE confirmed that Federations are not specifically identified within the constitution.**

AGREED:

- (a) The proposed amendment to the Constitution regarding the membership outlined in Section 3.2.
- (b) The proposal to notify the academy trust boards to elect four academy representatives to the three new academy membership places and the existing vacant place.

#### **1091: SCHOOL BALANCES**

CONSIDERED: A report providing information relating to school balances as at 31 March 2022. The report is for information only. As far as the headline figures are concerned, there has been very little movement in school balances since the previous financial year. A breakdown by phase/sector was shared. There has been some improvement in secondary schools. Overall revenue balances equate to 9% of the schools budget received. There is an improvement in the 21-22 outturn position compared to the start budget.

**NOTED:**

**(HF) Is it possible to draw out how much funding is designated for something i.e., will be spent? A breakdown is available in the report.**

**(RW) Is there a risk with the monies from schools moving to academisation? SD explained that these schools would take their surplus with them.**

**(JG) Might the overall challenge push the overall schools block into deficit? It was noted that a start budget is agreed but schools then take action to ensure things run to plan or improve.**

**(CC) Looking at the exceptional funding for sparse secondary schools, does the level need to be revisited otherwise the LA will face even more cost pressures. A sliding scale was suggested. It was noted these were DfE criterion rules but would be discussed with them in due course.**

AGREED: To note the position of school balances as at 31 March 2022.

#### **1092: SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS**

CONSIDERED: A report providing an update on the DfE recent change to their statutory guidance related to the Scheme for Financing Schools that is applicable to local authority maintained schools and to seek approval from the Schools Forum on an associated amendment to the North Yorkshire Scheme for Financing Schools.

AGREED:

- (a) To note the change in DfE guidance.

- (b) To approve amendments to the North Yorkshire County Council Scheme of Financing Schools relating to borrowing by schools, as per the DfE directed revision in March 2022.

### **1093: 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 2021/22 financial year. The report also provides an overview of the likely funding requirements of the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Funds for the 2022/23 financial year and the 2023/24 financial year. The report details the level of reserves on the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Funds as at 31 March 2022 and sets out proposals to determine the appropriate level of reserve to be maintained and the utilisation of any surplus funds.

#### **NOTED:**

**(CC) As regards to the funding requirements for schools closing – it makes reference to one school. SD explained that there had only been one school closed at the end of last academic year. Any future closures may need to be considered as an exception.**

#### **AGREED:**

- (a) To note the usage of the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Funds in the 2021/22 financial year as detailed in section 5.1 of this report
- (b) To note the funding requirements currently estimated for the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Funds for the 2022/23 financial year as detailed in section 5.2 of this report.
- (c) To note the reserves position on the Pupil Growth and Falling rolls Fund as at 31 March 2022 and the forecast reserves position for 31 March 2023 as detailed in section 5.3 of this report.
- (d) To agree the formation of a small working group of Schools Forum representatives to support the development of proposals to be presented to the Schools Forum in respect of the level of reserve to be retained on the core Pupil Growth and Falling rolls Fund and the utilisation of any surplus funds in excess of the agreed reserve balance. The development of proposals will be informed by the outcome of the recent DfE consultation on “Implementing the Direct National Funding formula”.

An email would be sent to Schools Forum members asking who would be interested in joining the working group explaining the timeframe.

### **1094: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business had been raised.

### **1095: FUTURE MEETINGS**

Thursday 17 November 2022

Thursday 15 December 2022 – if required

Thursday 19 January 2023

Thursday 16 March 2023

Thursday 18 May 2023

Thursday 21 September 2023

Thursday 23 November 2023

Thursday 14 December 2023 – if required