

DEVON EDUCATION FORUM

18 March 2020

Present-

Schools Members

Primary School Head teachers

Mr M Boxall

Mr A Dobson

Mr J Stone

Mr P Walker

Exeter Children's Federation

Marwood Primary

Denbury Primary

First Federation Trust (*Academy Member*)

Primary School Governors

Mr M Dobbins

Ms M Wallis

Exmouth Marpool Primary

Whimble School

Secondary School Head teachers

Mr R Haring

Ms M Marder

Mr M Shanks

Ivybridge CC (*Academy Member*)

The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust (*Academy Member*)

Education South West (*Academy Member*)

Secondary School Governors

Mrs J Larcombe

Uffculme Academy Trust (*Academy Member*)

Special School HeadTeacher

Ms S Pickering

Millwater School

Special School Governor

Mrs F Butler

Marland School (CHAIR)

Alternative Provision

Mr R Gasson

WAVE Multi Academy Trust (*Academy Member*)

Non-Schools Members

Mrs L Wright

Early Years Private, Voluntary & Independent

Observer

Councillor J McInnes

Cabinet Member – Children's Services and Skills

Apologies

All other Forum Members.

141 Minutes

DECISION:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020 be signed as a correct record.

142 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting and Report back on Issues Raised with Cabinet

This item was withdrawn.

143 Membership

This agenda item was withdrawn.

144 Head of Education & Learning Update

This agenda item was withdrawn.

145 Finance Update

DISCUSSION:

The Forum considered the report of the Chief Officer for Children's Services and County Treasurer (DEF/20/03).

The Forum also noted the respective minutes of the Schools Finance Group (SFG) of 4 March 2020.

The report (DEF/20/03) covered:-

- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (month 10) 2019/20 forecast and major variations; and
- Advance notice of planned carry forwards 2019/20.

The County Treasurer reported that the total DSG overspend as at month 10 is £21m after allowing for the requested carry forwards. The reduction in shortfall from Month 9 of £506,000 predominately related to the High Needs Block.

Section 2, Table 3 of Report (DEF/20/03) below set out all current known (estimated) carry forward requests, these would be confirmed and finalised during the closedown process. Maintained School balances and Special School balances would automatically carry forward to 2020/21 in individual budgets. The values of these would not be known until year end accruals have been undertaken.

DECISION:

(a) that the Dedicated Schools Grant (month 10) 2019/20 monitoring position as set out in Section 1 of Report (DEF/20/03) be noted;

(b) that in respect of the allocation of surplus carry forwards from 2019/20 as set out in Section 2, Table 3 of Report (DEF/20/03) below:-

(i) the Central Provisions be approved;
(Vote: Schools, Academies and PVI members)

(ii) the De-Delegated budgets be noted; and

(iii) the High Needs budgets be noted.

Section 2, Table 3 of Report (DEF/20/03) - Surplus budget carry forward requests:

(Note: all current known (estimated) carry forward requests as per Report (DEF/20/03)).

Budget Line	Amount £'000	Notes
Growth Fund	731	Rolled forward 2019/20 underspend to fund ongoing growth fund
Phase Associations	38	Rolled forward to fund phase association agreements in 2020/21 onwards
Total Central Provision	769	
Maternity	750	Rolled forward 2019/20 underspend to fund ongoing maternity cover
Schools and DSG Contingency	1,413	Rolled forward to fund contingency agreements in 2020/21 onwards
Invest to save projects	96	Rolled forward for payments linked to projects in 2020/21
Total De-delegated budgets	2,259	
Hospital Education	113	Rolled forward 2019/20 underspend to fund ongoing Medical AP students
Total High Needs	113	
Total Carry forward requested	3,141	

ACTION: County Treasurer (Adrian Fox).

146 Standing (and other) Groups

The Forum received the following minutes of its standing groups, including matters brought to DEF's attention:-

(a) Schools' Finance Group (SFG)

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2020 (considered under Finance Update minute above) and;

(ii) In relation to Data Transfer System Licences (AnyComms+1):-

A report had been considered by SFG seeking agreement from SFG for Devon to obtain the data transfer system licences (Anycomms+) centrally for all Devon schools (maintained and academy) at the lower rate of £90 per school per year compared to individual purchasing at £175.

DECISION:

That the licences being purchased for all Devon maintained and academy schools be approved.

(b) School Organisation, Capital and Admissions (SOCA)

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2020.

147 Dates of Future Meetings

Meetings to be held at 10am (unless otherwise specified):

Wednesday 17 June 2020
Wednesday 18 November 2020
Wednesday 20 January 2021
Wednesday 17 March 2021.

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

DECISION:

That Members be requested to keep the above scheduled dates in diaries (arrangements for meetings to be confirmed in light of Covid-19).

148 Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Communications and Advice to Schools

DISCUSSION:

The Head of Education & Learning gave a brief outline on the latest position for schools and responded to Members discussion points including:-

-Regular Education & Learning Updates to Headteachers (also available to governors only) and clear messages to avoid any misperceptions of the unprecedented challenge faced (eg this was *not* like the snowdays policy, but school staff would continue supporting their own school in different ways as and when necessary);

-discussions with school nursing and public health;

-the role of Schools supporting pupils, Free School Meals and the wide community;

-identifying vulnerable pupils;

-definition of key workers in the community to be developed (eg health staff, fire, police, adult social care workers, social workers) and the support key workers may need from schools;

-the daily difficulties schools were already facing due to absence and lack of supply cover;

-communications and flexibility to respond to rapidly changing directives/guidelines, different ways of teaching and different expectations on schools;

-national DBS checks changes;

-dissemination of information to parents;

-changes to staff/governor meetings within school;

-support to keep the Early Years sector operating;

-role of communities groups in the possible extension of holiday clubs and activities.

DECISION: that the Head of Education & Learning progress the above.

ACTION: Head of Education & Learning (Dawn Stabb)

The Meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 10.50 am

The Schools Forum web is www.devon.gov.uk/schoolsforum