

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

**MINUTES of the meeting held at Loxley House, Nottingham on 16 June 2016
from 13.47 - 14.16**

Membership

Present

Sian Hampton (Chair)
Bev Angell
David Blackley
Caroline Caille
Sally Coulton
Judith Kemplay
Janet Molyneux
Tracy Rees
James Strawbridge
Marcus Wells

Absent

Susi Artis
Maria Artingstoll
Paul Halcro
Gary Holmes
Andy Jenkins
Chris Manze
Mark Precious
Terry Smith
Dawn Whitemore
Tracey Ydlibi

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Alistair Conquer	- Head of Education Partnerships
Lucy Juby	- Project Manager, Access to Learning
Ceri Walters	- Finance Business Partner, Children and Adults
Phil Wye	- Governance Officer

44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Maria Artingstoll
Susi Artis
Dave Hooker
Gary Holmes
Andy Jenkins
Chris Manze
Mark Precious
Terry Smith
Dawn Whitemore
Councillor Sam Webster

45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

46 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting from 21 April 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

47 WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme for the next meeting of the Forum was noted.

48 UPDATE ON THE PUPIL GROWTH CONTINGENCY FUND

Lucy Juby, Project Manager, School Organisation, updated the Forum highlighting the following:

- (a) the remaining balance after the 2015/16 closedown was £36,089. This was slightly higher than expected as the early years funding for Fernwood was lower;
- (b) the majority of the schemes for 2016/17 were approved by Schools Forum in January;
- (c) Glade Hill Primary is taking an additional bulge year, in advance of a possible permanent expansion due to a shortage of places in the area;
- (d) IDEAL provision is still under review but £8,000 has been set aside for this;
- (e) the largest amount is a one-off payment to Nottingham Academy for their new site on Sneinton Boulevard opening in September. They have taken on additional pupils gradually over a number of years;
- (f) Huntingdon Primary is taking a bulge year, as it has done in previous years, due to pressure on school places in the area;
- (g) The remaining balance currently stands at £39,547.

RESOLVED to note the information

49 STATUTORY MONITORING PROCESS FOR DEFICIT MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

Ceri Walters, Finance Business Partner, Children and Adults, introduced the report updating the Forum on the statutory monitoring process for deficit maintained schools, highlighting the following:

- (a) the report sets out the steps to be taken when a maintained school sets a deficit budget, as specified in the Fair Funding Scheme;
- (b) the process only applies where the deficit exceeds 5% of the school budget share or £35,000 for primary schools, and 2.5% of the school budget share or £70,000 for secondary schools;
- (c) if schools have any further queries on this they can contact Schools Finance or the Clerk of the Schools' Forum.

RESOLVED to note the statutory monitoring process for deficit maintained schools

50 2015/16 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT - OUTTURN REPORT

Ceri Walters, Finance Business Partner, Children and Adults, introduced the report setting out the 2015/16 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) outturn and the updated reserve balance.

The following points were raised in the discussion which followed:

- (a) secondary schools are still awaiting devolved high needs funding and funding for additional high needs in terms of behaviour. Schools Finance and the Director of Education are currently working on resolving this;
- (b) Forum members there may be a large future contingency needed for education of children in hospitals, due to increased number at the Queens Medical Centre and a new mental health hospital. National funding is currently frozen so this could fall to the High Needs Block.

RESOLVED to

- (1) note that the 2015/16 financial outturn position of the DSG was an underspend of £1.373m and the reasons for the material underspend are as follows:**

	(Under)Spend £m	Details
3 & 4 year old contingency	(0.278)	Pupil premium, to be paid back to the DfE in 2016/17
BSF slippage	(0.619)	Slippage in capital programme
Pupil growth slippage	(0.099)	Slippage to support 2015/16 growth as per report presented in April.
Early Years contingency	(0.125)	No longer required
Exclusions	(0.281)	Primary exclusions
Home Tuition	(0.100)	Not required in 2015/16
Special Schools Contingency and Transition	(0.166)	Underspend of contingency and transitional costs
Special Educational Needs	(0.116)	Underspend of contingency and transitional costs
Headroom	(0.143)	Unallocated balance of final settlement
Education cost of placements	0.322	Increase in complexity and growth in population
Cross Border Top ups	0.385	Demand driven increase

Total material underspends	(1.220)	
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(2) note that this under spend has been allocated back to the Statutory Schools Reserve (SSR) resulting in a closing balance of £11.997m for 2015/16, as below:

	Forecast £m	Actual £m
Opening Balance as at 1 April 2015	(14.885)	(14.885)
Less: 2015/16 Commitments	5.826	4.261
Add: 2015/16 Under spends		(1.373)
Closing Balance as at 31 March 2015	(9.875)	(11.997)
Less: 2015/16 & 2016/17 Commitments	4.212	7.796
Less: 2 Year old Funding	4.405	
Uncommitted Balance	(1.258)	(4.201)

(3) note that based on current commitments, that the SSR balance by 31 March 2022 should be £4.201m, as in the table above.

51 MEETING DATES FOR THE 2016/17 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Forum noted that the dates have been set for the 2015/16 academic year as follows:

22 September 2016
 3 November 2016
 8 December 2016
 19 January 2017
 23 February 2017
 20 April 2017
 22 June 2017

Some dates may be subject to financial deadlines set by the Department for Education.