

Nottingham City Council

Schools Forum

Minutes of the meeting held at remotely, and livestreamed on YouTube on 17 January 2023 from 1.50 pm - 2.58 pm

Membership

Kerrie Fox (Chair)	-	PRUs
✓ Paul Burke (Vice Chair)	-	Secondary Academies
✓ Kerrie Henton	-	AP Academies and Free Schools
Debbie Simon	-	Early Years PVI
✓ Judith Kemplay)	
✓ Terry Smith)	Maintained Primary Head Teachers
✓ Alison Tones)	
✓ Patricia Lewis)	
Laura Patel	-	The Nottingham Nursery
Meeta Dave)	
✓ Tim Jeffs)	Primary Academies
✓ Rob Perkins)	
✓ Andy Smith)	
✓ David Tungate)	Secondary Academies
✓ Bob White)	
✓ Phil Willott	-	Special Academies
✓ Sheena Wheatley	-	Trade Unions
Lisa Wilson	-	14-19 Education (Caroline Sheard as substitute)

✓ indicates present at meeting

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Trevor Bone	-	Head of Building Services and Facilities Management
Kathryn Bouchlaghem	-	Early Years Manager
Julia Holmes)	Senior Commercial Business Partner
Kathryn Stevenson)	
Mark Leavesley	-	Governance Officer / Clerk to the Forum
Nick Lee	-	Director of Education Services
Paul Stevenson	-	Interim Strategic Finance Business Partner
Janine Walker	-	Head of SEND and Vulnerable Pupils

21 Chair

As the Chair (Kerrie Fox) had previously sent her apologies for the meeting, and the Vice-Chair was experiencing technical issues, the Forum agreed to appoint Judith Kemplay as Chair for this meeting.

22 Apologies for absence

Kerrie Fox
Debbie Simon

23 Declarations of interests

None.

24 Minutes

The Forum agreed the minutes of the last meeting held on 06 December 2022 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair presiding at the meeting.

25 Schools Budget 2023/24

Kathryn Stevenson and Julia Holmes (Senior Commercial Business Partners) presented the report, and stated the following:

- a) the report detailed the proposed Schools Budget for the financial year 2023/24, prepared in line with parameters agreed at a meeting of Schools Forum, and with the financial regulations issued by the Department for Education;
- b) as outlined in a report to 06 December 2022 Schools Forum meeting, for 2023/24, the LA has moved away from the standard approach of setting a Schools budget that balances the budgets by block to the Dedicated Schools Grant income received;
- c) this report incorporated further proposals in relation to the Early Years block, extending this approach in response to equivalent pressures in that sector;
- d) indicative individual school budgets, Early Years and High Needs funding allocations, along with guidance notes, would be issued by 28 February 2023.
- e) where applicable, the Local Authority's Medium Term Financial Plan incorporated the impact from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

During discussion, members requested that their thanks to Kathryn and Julia, for the work done in respect of the Schools Budget, be recorded.

Resolved to note:

(1) in respect of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG):

- (a) the overall indicative 2023/24 Schools Budget to be spent incorporating the Schools, Central Schools Services (CSS), Early Years (EY) and Higher Needs (HN) blocks was £344.944m, funded by:**
 - (i) £342.836m of the provisional 2023/24 DSG allocation of £344.819m;**
 - (ii) reimbursement of £0.447m funding paid to academies for pupil growth for April to August 2023;**
 - (iii) £1.438m from DSG reserves to support the additional one-off distribution to mainstream schools, from the balance earmarked for distribution in conjunction with the SF sub-group;**

26 De-delegation of 2023/24 Health and Safety Building Inspection funding

Trevor Bone, Head of Building Services and Facilities Management, presented the report, and stated the following:

- a) the purpose of the report was to update Schools Forum on the statutory and legislative health and safety responsibilities of the Local Authority in relation to maintenance and testing of maintained school properties, and how the funding being requested to be de-delegated was used to support this;
- b) Schools Forum agreed at its meeting on 8 October 2019 the de-delegation of £6.61 for the financial year 2020/21 and that this funding, along with the outstanding balance on the health and safety tests and inspections reserve (£0.228m), was to be used to fund the costs of tests and inspections in the financial years 2020/21 to 2022/23;
- c) at that meeting, maintained schools expressed a preference to be able to organise their own health and safety tests and inspections once the five-year cycle had come to an end;
- d) during discussions between Pat and Sarah Fielding (Nottingham Schools Trust) and Nicholas Lee (Director of Education Services) and David Thompson (Schools Health and Safety Manager), it was agreed that a report asking maintained primary schools if they would like to approve the de-delegation of funding for health and safety tests and inspections for the financial year 2023/24 be submitted to this meeting;
- e) the local authority is required to seek approval on an annual basis in accordance with the 'Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations 2022'.

Resolved that

- (1) the statutory and legislative health and safety responsibilities of the local authority in relation to building maintenance of maintained primary and secondary schools and the type of costs that the requested funding would be used to fund, as detailed in paragraph 1.2 of the report, be noted;**
- (2) maintained mainstream primary schools' members approved:**
 - (a) de-delegation of health and safety building inspection funding for 2023/24 of an estimated £0.082m for mainstream maintained primary schools, based on a rate of £7.40 per pupil;**
 - (b) use of the forecast balance of £0.014m at the end of the financial year 2022/23 from the health and safety tests and inspections reserve to offset the costs of tests and inspections in the financial year 2023/24.**

27 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting will be held remotely via Zoom, and livestreamed on YouTube, at 1.45pm on Tuesday 28 February 2023.