









Derby City Council

School Forum
4 June 2024
4.30pm – 6pm
Via Teams

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| Present | | | |
| | Paula Baines-Chambers | Primary Academy | |
| | Jenny Brown | Derby Cathedral School | |
| | Sharon Buckby | DCC | |
| | Nicole Caley | Secondary Head | |
| | Cheryl Fearn | Union Rep Observer | |
| | Adey Greaves | School Business Manager | |
| | Janice Hadfield | DCC, Finance | |
| | Wendy Hardy | Union Rep | |
| | Karen Hayes | | |
| | Sabrina Hobbs | Secondary Head (chair in Mikes absence) | |
| | Scott McGregor | Secondary Head | |
| | Cllr John Whitby | Cabinet Member for CYP | |
| Apologies | Karen Phillips | | |
| | Andy Smith | | |
| | Steve Grundy | | |
| | Mike Pride | | |
| | | | Who |
| 1 | Minutes of the last meeting | | |
| | The minutes were taken as an accurate record of the meeting. | |  |
| 2 | DSG 2023/24 final outturn | | |
| | <p>JH went through this report.</p> <p>This is a ring fenced grant with regulations which allow underspend and overspends to be carried forward.</p> <p>3.1 The DSG continues to report a deficit due to pressures within the High Needs Block. The reported cumulative forecast deficit at quarter 3 was £13.781m. The actual cumulative deficit for the financial year 2023-24 was £12.689m, a reduction of £1.092m.</p> <p>The primary reason for the reduction was the Early Years underspend at quarter 3. The High Needs Block has as overspend of £9.031 which is broadly in line with the quarter 3 forecast.</p> <p>3.2 The Schools Block reported a slight pressure of £0.052m on a budget of £228m, the main reason being this was the backdated charges for NNDR.</p> | |  |

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| | <p>3.3 The Central Block is reporting a balanced position.</p> <p>3.4 The Early Years Block position was a favourable £0.837m) surplus.</p> <p>3.5 This point details blocks and final balances. No questions were asked.</p> <p>3.6 The balance of the DSG reserves carried forward into 2023/24 was £4.443m deficit. The in-year deficit for 2023/24 of £8.246m leaves a cumulative deficit balance on the DSG reserve of £12.689m.</p> <p>The mitigated forecast deficit for 2024/25 as per the DSG management plan was set at £2.988m thus forecasting a cumulative forecast deficit balance for the end of 2024/25 of £7.431m. The planned financial impact of the mitigations implemented did not materialise as forecast.</p> <p>The School Forum noted the final outturn position for 2023-24 and cumulative deficit carrying forward to 24-25.</p> | | |
| 3 | <p>Growth Fund Revision</p> <p>JH went through the report.</p> <p>1.1 For 24/25 the DfE are introducing to changes to the growth funding, so the School Forum are asked to note the amendment of the criteria of the allocation to align with the National Funding Formula. This was noted by School Forum members.</p> <p><u>3.2 For the first time in 2024 to 2025 local authorities will be required to provide growth funding where a school or academy has agreed with the local authority to provide an extra class to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or as an ongoing commitment). Funding, either through the growth fund, or by adjusting pupil numbers in the APT, will need to be provided regardless of whether the additional class is within or outside of the PAN.</u></p> <p>The new directive mirrors what Derby already applies with schools who have applied for bulge years as a direct result of working the LA. The proposal is to state this requirement for 24-25 within Derby's criteria.</p> <p>SH/JH confirmed this does not apply to the special schools.</p> | |  |
| 4 | <p>Scheme for funding schools revision</p> <p>JH explained the report and the appendices attached.</p> | |  |

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| | <p>This report summarises the changes and attaches the scheme for funding policy, App A and App C. Summarising the changes to the scheme for funding schools must be approved by School Forum.</p> <p>Recommendation approved to changes and to note to annex F the letter from the education funding agencies around classes. In summary DfE have updated guidance how we categorise leases.</p> <p>3.3 states which sections have been changed and have track changes for now and then will publish without track changes on the website once School Forum have agreed.</p> <p>This affects maintained schools rather than academies.</p> | |  <p>Appendix C - Annex B School financial report</p>  <p>Appendix B SFS - lease.pdf</p> |
| <p>5</p> | <p>School Forum Membership Review</p> <p>SB explained that it has been 2 years since the current membership was formed and School Forum need to consider how we might either refresh, sustain or expand the membership of School Forum. SB asked members their thoughts.</p> <p>Scott – happy to go back to groups for representation, however happy to stay on if required.</p> <p>SB commented that not many schools understand how the context and what information flows through the School Forum, ie at certain times of the year where there is an allocation of funding.</p> <p>For example, in October there will be a presentation with recommendations around the banding review.</p> <p>SB mentioned the Trust CEO's too, making sure they are aware of the information provided at the School Forum.</p> <p>NC commented when discussed it was difficult to get people on the board, especially because maintained schools are very few and far between but agreed fresh faces would be a good idea.</p> <p>SH – New reps would give a different perspective.</p> <p>WH – totally agrees. She felt there was a training issue, SSG/PSG great idea.</p> <p>CF as an observer found the information extremely difficult to follow especially dealing with such a large amount of money, quite complex, do feel there is a training need. Look at how it's affecting people in school and how the decisions affect staff. New people will have different questions, felt this was a good idea to have fresh eyes. JH mentioned training is carried out every October including a training pack and the roles and responsibilities of SF. JH explained that School Forum have very little decision making powers now and</p> | | |

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| | <p>the information is for noting, directed by rules set out by DFE and education funding agency.</p> <p>When there is a change to vote it needs to have the right people in the room and to cascade to everyone's peers.</p> <p>SB commented School bulletins have the School Forum links. We need the assurance that work with schools leads up to school forum, generated and developed with heads and trust leaders. As it is the national directive there are fewer things that we can do.</p> <p>Information can be discussed and add be supported and challenged which is positive and beneficial.</p> <p>Schools bulletin - which goes out to all headteachers, governors are able to access that too. There should be a way this could be cascaded.</p> <p>Special schools meeting and there is a Governors meeting in June, so conversations to be had in those arenas.</p> <p>KH mentioned School Forum in Derbyshire too, where she is a rep, things happen very differently in various local authorities. KH felt it was helpful to have a face to face meeting sometimes perhaps when there is really hard decision making ie impact on early years, or when there is an impact on funding elements. Prompt governors to ask questions, to think in a certain way, professionally challenging way.</p> <p>It was agreed there would be a face to face training session in late September/Early October. JH more than happy to deliver training.</p> <p>Colleagues to note PSG/SSG/Special schools meetings and SB asked if School Forum reps could lead on School Forum conversations to reach out to Primary/Early years sector. SB/JH will attend if possible.</p> <p>Action: SB to check if there is an Early Years Provider Forum in June, will check with colleagues in sufficiency team.</p> <p>Action: SB to pick up with Jayne Hadfield, who provides the Governors training to encourage a Chair of Governor to sit on the Forum.</p> <p>Action: JH to check on memberships – quorate, expressions of interest, constitution, present members.</p> <p>Please let SL know if you are interested in staying on as a School Forum rep for the next 2 years, sue.leyland@derby.gov.uk.</p> | | |
| 6 | <p>Any Other Business None</p> | | |

