



**School Forum Meeting Minutes**  
**1 February 2022 4.30 pm – 6 pm**  
**Via Teams**

Present	Pauline Anderson	DCC, Peoples Services
	Paula Baines-Chambers	Primary Academy
	Janet Bowzler	DCC, Finance
	Adey Greaves	School Business Manager
	Janice Hadfield	DCC, Finance
	Karen Hayes	Secondary Head
	Sabrina Hobbs	Secondary Head
	Janet Holland	Voluntary Sector/PVI
	Wendy Hardy	Union Rep
	Deirdre Malley	Nursery Head
	Scott McGregor	Secondary Head
	Karen Phillips	Governor Rep
	Mike Pride	(Chair) The Kingsmead School
	Cllr Evonne Williams	DCC, Peoples Services
Apologies	Andy Smith	
		Who
<b>1</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting (7 December)</b> The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Dedicated School Grant 2022 2023</b>	
	JH presented the report.  In summary in section 1.1 there was an announcement from DfE on what the DSG allocation is now and used this to allocate the funding in agreement with the conditions of the grant.  1.2 DSG is split into four blocks for the allocations for Derby City.  Schools block, the main difference for 2022-23 is the treatment of non-domestic rates. DfE have changed how rates will be paid, however LA's are still waiting for further clarification on how school budgets should be published to reflect the changes. The school by school analysis is published with rates so it is comparable with last year.	

	<p>The report gives the national picture – national funding formula have been increased for some by 3%. Derby are in strong position as have applied NFF rates to all factors.</p> <p>High Needs Block has seen an increase just over £5 million.</p> <p>School Forum are asked to note the allocations of the Dedicated Schools Grant as detailed in the report and to approve transfer from the Schools block to the High Needs Block which is detailed in the separate paper attached too.</p> <p>School Forum supported the recommendation for Council Cabinet to approve the schools budget based on increasing the minimum funding level per pupil to £4,265 for primary pupils and £5,525 for secondary pupils. Also to Implement a cap on any growth above 4.73% with no factor being scaled back, and to set a minimum funding guarantee of 2%.</p> <p>Also to support a base rate element of Early Years Funding for 2yr olds of £5.57 per hour and 3/4 year olds £4.54 per hour.</p> <p>Supporting information goes through all details.</p> <p>Section 3.2 sees those increases from a national level. Only 7 schools impacted on minimum funding guarantee.</p> <p>2022-23 will see the removal of the Infant class size funding 2021-22 was the last year.</p> <p>Section 3.5 Comparison from last year on main school's block, initial allocation is £213m which is an increase of £8.5 million from 21/22. Highlighted separately non domestic rates will be clawed back and paid directly.</p> <p>From the schools block £211 million is to be distributed across the schools through the funding formula.</p> <p>Point 3.7 The Early Years funding block has been impacted on the overall reduction in hours which are being claimed by nurseries.</p> <p>High Needs Block – DSG Allocation and requirement</p>		
--	---	--	--

	<p>Point 3.13 allocation has been increased by £5million however because of number of out of authority places the Out of Area import/export adjustment has a net change of £0.895million.</p> <p>The high needs spending continues to be a problem for Derby and it is expected the cause a overall deficit on the DSG.</p> <p>A further reduction in the Central School Services Block for 22/23 seeing a reduction of £0.282m which has been absorbed with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.</p> <p>Transfer from the Schools Block from the High Needs Block is part of the second paper on the agenda.</p> <p>Schools forum agreed to all the recommendations in the budget report.</p> <p>KH asked about the supplementary grant as with her school being a free school academy, no funding will be sent directly to school. Asked if she will receive the national levy. Inflation by 2% in line with schools' inflation, not subjected to element 3 funding.</p> <p>KH commented that this is a Question which is coming up for all schools forums. Unintended consequences, increased costs to schools. Difficult situation, KH has raised with local authority as per guidance.</p>		
3	<p><b>Proposed Schools Block Transfer 3</b></p> <p>The purpose of this report is to set out the proposal to transfer £0.303m of the schools block of the Dedicated Schools Grant to the High Needs Block in 2022-23.</p> <p>Section 3.5 gives some detail as to why.</p> <p>2 areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £53k for the SENDIASS service, works closely with families and avoids ooa placements and associated costs</li> <li>• £250k to support the Graduated Response to children with speech language and communication needs.</li> </ul> <p>MP commented the number of tribunals has drastically reduced over the last 18 months. There's a more planned and coordinated approach.</p>		

	<p>PA informed members that Derby was the second most improved LA next to Cheshire East. Jan 2020 commissioned an internal financial audit into process which showed a waste of resource. A tribunal working group was formed to include SENDIASS, SEND Lawyer, etc their work together led to the reduction. £30k Covid grant to support additional capacity from SENDIASS and PA is confident this worthwhile investment as already proved to work.</p> <p>Speech and Language Therapy, work is halfway through and look at how speech and language is commissioned throughout the city. Build on graduated response to take to health boards and work with Lee English, Commissioner.</p> <p>School Forum voted unanimously to approve a transfer of £0.303m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.</p> <p>In relation to the discussion early around funding MP suggested KH provide a paper, to share with JH and PA to present at the next school forum meeting around the costs and impact of not receiving funding. KH agreed to provide this.</p> <p>EW will lobby MPs and LGA and look at what can be done about it.</p> <p>JH advised forum that this budget which is being set, will show as a deficit budget, which will mean implications for providing a deficit recovery plan. This will be brought back to the School Forum for their input, once requested by DfE.</p>	<p>KH</p> <p>EW</p>	
<p><b>AOB</b></p>	<p>KH informed the forum that this would be her last School Forum meeting as she is leaving Derby Pride Academy next term and a new rep will be required.</p> <p>MP thanked KH, on behalf of all at the School Forum, for all the time she had contributed to the forum and wished her all the best for the future.</p>		

**Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 7 June 2022, 4.30pm start**