

Minutes of the Schools Forum – 8th July 2020

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams and YouTube

Status: Approved

Name	Establishment	Representing
Sue Blackburn (SB) Chair	Coalbrookdale & Ironbridge Primary School	Maintained Primaries – South Cluster
Gill Eatough (GE)	Learning Community Trust	Academies (Special)
Helen Osterfield (HO)	Tibberton Primary School	Maintained Primaries – Small Schools
Heather Davies (HD)	The Bridge School	Maintained Special schools
Claire Whiting (CW)	Redhill Academy	Mainstream Academies
Mark Davis (MD)	St Peter's Bratton Primary School	Maintained Primaries – Wellington Cluster
Lynda Stolic (LS)	Randlay Primary School	Maintained Primaries – Central Cluster
Michael Scott (MS)	Newport Girls' High School	Mainstream Academies
Penny Hustwick (PH)	ABC Nursery	PVI Representative
Christobel Cousins (CC)	Lilleshall Primary School	Maintained Primaries – Newport Cluster
Robert Fox (RF)	Donnington Wood Junior School	Maintained Primaries – North Cluster
Darren Lennon (DL)	Linden Centre PRU	Maintained Pupil Referral Units
Shirley Reynolds (SR)	Cabinet Member – Education & Skills	Cabinet Member T&W Council
Tim Davis (TD)	T&W Group Accountant	Representative of the Director of Finance
Andy Wood (AW)	T&W Senior Accountant - Schools	Representative of the Director of Finance

1. Apologies - AW.

1.1 Apologies were received from:

Paul Broomhead – Burton Borough Secondary School.

Rachel Cook – Newdale Primary School

Heather Loveridge – Director, Education & Skills

Tracey Smart – Finance Manager T&W

2. Minutes of the 16th January 2020 meeting and matters arising - GE.

2.1 The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes can be found at the link:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/12357/january_2020_-_minutes

2.2 GE updated the Forum regarding paragraph 2.2. There should be a member for post 16 in time for the September 2020 meeting, possibly Telford College's Finance Director.

2.3 Regarding paragraph 4.7, AW noted that Liz Smith, SDM School Performance and Development, will attend the September 2020 meeting to discuss central early years costs.

3. DSG Outturn 2019/20 - TD.

3.1 TD gave the group an overview of the paper presented to the Forum. The paper can be found at the following links:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/14994/july_2020_-_dsg_outturn_fy20192020

3.2 The progress of implementation of single status was discussed and in particular the element of the balances held that was top-sliced from school budget some time ago. It was agreed that a representative of the single status team would be invited to address the Forum at a subsequent meeting.

4. Change in treatment of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficits - TD.

4.1 The Forum was presented with a paper which can be found at the following link:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/14995/july_2020_-_change_in_treatment_of_dsg_deficits

4.2 TD talked the Forum through the paper presented highlighting the main reasons for the changes implemented by the DfE/ESFA.

4.3 GE asked when we will receive our DSG allocations; TD responded that it was usually in December, but that the DfE sometimes release information before then providing a sense of likely changes.

5. COVID 19 Financial Impact on Schools - TD.

5.1 The Forum was presented with a paper which can be found at the link:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/14996/july_2020_-_covid_19_financial_impact_on_schools

5.2 TD went through the paper highlighting the major points.

5.3 GE stated that the LCT schools were ordering essential supplies for CV19 now for the autumn term so that the funds could be recovered within the claim due this month; deadline 20th July 2020.

5.4 TD advised that the LA were still trying to understand the impact of guidance on schools transport from September 2020 and the knock on financial implications. HD advised that special schools will have pupils that cannot wear masks on transport but will nevertheless need transportation to school. Guidance is problematic for special schools especially regarding cleaning etc. TD stated that we still awaited further promised DfE guidance but were progressing with discussions with schools and within the local authority on possible approaches to transport.

- 5.5 HD noted that staff sickness/absence could present issues from the Autumn Term due to the need to isolate for two weeks when staff have been in contact with someone infected. Staggered opening and closing times of pupils attending will be a major complication for schools that accept pupils from all age ranges from the whole of the borough.
- 5.6 GE stated that maintaining bubbles will involve lots of planning to managing start/finish times and to ensure that parents of pupils are not adversely affected.

6. AOB.

- 6.1 TD reminded the group that the SEN contingency fund has increased from £100,000 to £200,000 in FY2020/2021. The first £100,000 will be distributed using a formula as in previous years and the summer term allocations can be found at the link:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/14999/july_2020_-_sen_contingency_fund

7. Next Meetings

The dates of the forthcoming meetings for the academic year 2020/2021, are as follows:

Thursday 17th September 2020, Walker Room, Meeting Point House at 9:30 am
Thursday 19th November 2020, Walker Room, Meeting Point House at 9:30 am
Thursday 14th January 2021, Walker Room, Meeting Point House at 9:30 am
Thursday 11th March 2021, Walker Room, Meeting Point House at 9:30 am
Thursday 20th May 2021, Walker Room, Meeting Point House at 9:30 am

A full record of future meetings can be found at the following link:

http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/507/forum_meetings