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|  | | **Coventry Schools Forum** |
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| Time and Date: | Thursday 23 January 2025 at 4:30pm | |
| Venue: | Council House, Committee Room 2 | |
| Present: | Sybil Hanson, Gary Watson, Joss Andrews, Lisa Henden, Louise Stewart, Adele Wallis, Fiona Brinson, Ruth Williamson, Rosemary Malcolm, David Kershaw, John Teago, Leah Baddeley, Sarah Malam, Michael Berry, Louise Kelman, Sarah Kenrick, Chris Bishop, Sarah Kinsell, Rachael Sugars, Lucy Lambert | |
| Apologies: | Sharon Cutler, Sinead Smith, Paul Hammond, Nicky Downes, Helen Quinn, Rachael Barnes, Claire Turpin, Marina Kelly, Isobel Rose, Alison Francis | |
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**CSF01/25 - APOLOGIES AND WELCOMES**

Please see above for attendance and recorded apologies.

It was confirmed that the meeting is quorate.

**CSF02/25 -** **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st November were confirmed, Schools Forum members are encouraged to read the minutes in conjunction with the presentation slides.

**CSF03/25 – MATTERS ARISING AND REVIEW OF ACTION LOG**

The below actions have been completed or are on today’s agenda:

* CSF32/24 – Paul Hammond to bring item on central school budgets to Schools Forum in January.
* CSF33/24 – Paul Hammond to bring item on de-delegation to Schools Forum in January.

The below actions are ongoing:

* CSF24/24 – An item on SEND/Workforce strategy to come to Schools Forum in March.
* CSF28/24 – Rachael Sugars to share feedback from Local Government Association Peer Review at a future Schools Forum.

**CSF04/25 – NATIONAL UPDATE**

* Please see presentation slides 2 to 11.
* Schools Forum were given the opportunity to comment on the proposal to centrally retain the maximum amount of 2025/26 Early Years funding (4%) as has been the case in previous years, ahead of the formal decision in March. There were no comments made.

**Action – Paul Hammond to bring updates on Early Years and High Needs to March Schools Forum.**

**CSF05/25 – SCHOOLS NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA**

* Please see presentation slides 13 to 20.

It was asked:

**Are we in the position where option 1 is the ‘least worst’ option?**

Yes, agreed. Neither of the options are good, but option 1 will protect more schools.

**How long will we have these funding issues in the system?**

We can’t predict at this stage – the factor change that has caused this set of issues will catch up with itself next year, but there may be other changes coming down the line so there is a definite risk that these funding issues could continue.

**Decision: The Schools Forum should ratify the recommended setting of the MFG at 0% and scaling gains by 36.2% to make the Schools Funding Formula affordable**

**Voting: All Members**

**Result: Carried unanimously**

**CSF06/25 – GROWTH FUND**

* Please see presentation slides 23 to 27 and Growth Fund report.

It was asked:

**Please could you explain the in-year admissions issue?**

This used to be a retrospective fund, looking at the previous calendar year and funding every in-year admission to a school. It has been a helpful fund for schools that had a high level of transience. However, we have now changed to funding bulge classes so funding is received upfront rather than retrospectively. If we retained the in-year admissions fund, we would have the risk of double funding these pupils.

**Decision: The Schools Forum should approve the proposed criteria for the growth fund and the use of the resource allocated as set out in the report.**

**Voting: All Members**

**Result: Carried unanimously**

**CSF07/25 – DE-DELEGATION**

* Please see presentation slides 30 to 32 and the De-Delegation report.

It was asked:

**Do we know why take up of the newly arrived fund has been low? Is this because of the demographic of maintained Primary schools, there are fewer new arrivals? Or is it because more schools have become academies?**

We need to carry out a review of new arrivals, and how the money is used. We want to be convinced that it remains the correct way to de-delegate funding.

**Action – Review of the newly arrived fund to take place for the 26/27 financial year.**

**Decision: The Schools Forum should agree the de-delegation proposals**

**Voting: Maintained Primary Members**

**Result: Carried unanimously**

**CSF08/25 – CENTRAL EXPENDITURE**

* Please see presentation slides 35 to 37 and the Central Schools Services Block report.

**Decision: The Schools Forum should approve the proposed 2025/26 CSSB budgets**

**Voting: All Members**

**Result: Carried unanimously**

**CSF09/25 – FAIR FUNDING SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

* Please see presentation slides 40 to 41 and the Fair Funding Scheme of Delegation report.

**Decision: The Schools Forum should agree the change to the FFSD as set out in the report.**

**Voting: Maintained Members**

**Result: Carried unanimously**