

**Leicester City Council
Schools Forum**

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting held at 1:00 pm on Thursday 14th June 2018 at Soar Valley Training Centre

Present:

Schools members:

Academies:	Jim Cook, Maxine Clewlow
Special Academies:	~
Special School Governors:	~
Special School Heads:	~
Secondary School Governors:	Janet Washington
Secondary School Head representatives:	Ian Johnson, Simon Catchpole
Primary School Governors:	Steve Wilson, Glenys Mulvany, Khalid Mahmood
Primary School Head representatives:	Liz Warren, Karl Stewart, Dave Nimmo, Nigel Bruen
Pupil Referral Units:	Shaun Whittingham

Non-Schools Members:

Teaching Unions:	Peter Flack (Chair)
School support staff Unions:	~
14-19 Partnership:	Sandra Hamilton-Fox
Early Years PVI Providers:	~
Voluntary Sector:	~

In attendance:

Paul Tinsley	Director of Learning and Inclusion
Simon Walton	Senior Accountant, Finance
Ed Rowe	Clerk to the Forum
Jessica Edmonds	(NUT) Observer
Daniel Routledge	(Item 6 only)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from David Wyatt, Julie Aquilina, Wendy Martin, Yoke O'Brien and Martin Judson.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2018 were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Update on re-pooling of landlord CMF monies for 2017/18

The clerk had asked the Service Manager, Contracts & Business Development, for an update on the issue but no reply had been received. It was suggested that Neil Browne, the recently appointed Customer Relationship Manager, may be able to provide updates in future.

5. Proposed changes to membership – revised constitution

The Chair advised that changes to the constitution had been proposed in order to take account of the number of schools converting from maintained status to academies. The intention was to increase mainstream academy representatives by three and reduce the maintained school representatives by the same amount.

However, it was noted that not all the planned conversions were now expected to take place on the scheduled date. As a result, it was decided to defer any changes to membership and the constitution until at least the first meeting of the next academic year.

The Chair noted that maintained representatives voted on de-delegation by phase, whereas academy representatives were not split into primary and secondary categories. Consideration needed to be given in future as to how Forum membership could continue to provide an appropriate balance between primary and secondary phase representatives.

A query was raised regarding whether or not there was any restriction on the number of terms that members could be elected for. The constitution set out the maximum individual term of office as four years, but was silent on whether or not consecutive terms were permitted.

It was confirmed that the Department for Education regulations did not preclude consecutive terms, so the draft constitution would be revised to reflect that.

Action: Clerk

6. Whatever it Takes evaluation report

Daniel Routledge presented the evaluation report for Whatever it Takes. As in previous years, there were no specific performance measures that could definitively demonstrate the success of the project, but a number of proxy measures and indicators were available.

Attainment

Reading attainment for pupils at or above the expected standard at Key Stage 1 had improved by 2.8%, which had helped to close the gap to the national average to 6.3%. However, it was noted that 10% of pupils in Leicester were not included in the tests, which was double the national average.

Key Stage 2 reading attainment had increased by 6.2%, which was in line with national results. It was noted that the gap between results from teacher assessments and test outcomes had increased from last year, with teacher assessments consistently higher than test outcomes.

At the Early Years Foundation Stage, the gap to the national average continued to narrow. Outcomes in both reading and writing improved in Leicester, despite little or no change in national averages.

Year 1 phonics had improved by almost 3% in Leicester, and the gap to the national average had fallen to just 1.4%.

Reading survey

Just over 9000 primary pupils took part in the reading survey. This number had declined over recent years, mainly as a result of the academies not being eligible for WiT activities. Almost every question provided a less positive response than last year, with a 2% reduction in those rating themselves as very good at reading and 3% fewer pupils said they definitely liked the books they could choose from at school.

In the secondary phase survey, 2600 pupils took part. There had been a 3% reduction in the number of pupils stating they liked reading. In contrast to the primary phase, there had been a 1% increase in the number of pupils who liked the choice of books available to them at school.

School based projects

In the primary sector, funding totalling £792,315 was awarded to 66 schools for 93 projects. The average gain in reading age was 12 months.

In the secondary sector, funding totalling £182,534 had been awarded to 15 schools for 17 projects. The average reading age gain was 12 months and the average spelling age improvement was 8 months.

Overall analysis of the types of projects revealed increases in expenditure on resources, technology and staffing.

Centrally funded projects

As always, there had been a wide range of centrally organised projects under the WiT banner.

The WiT CPD programme supported over 200 staff members from 60 schools over a range of courses. These were always evaluated highly with positive feedback.

Reading Champion events were always well attended and well received. Best practice was shared and there was evidence of how this learning had been put to good use in school based projects.

The Ready and Reading programme supported vulnerable Year 6 pupils during the transition into secondary school. The average gain in reading age from the start of the programme through to the start of secondary school was 13 months. Members noted this was stunning progress, as most pupils regressed during the transition period.

Author Week continued to be very well received, with 5000 pupils getting involved and more than 90% of respondents rating the experience as good or excellent.

The Knowledge Transfer Centre provided 14 training events with 1300 attendees. The EYFS and Year 1 phonics results showed the progress that had been delivered.

Reading Rampage, Everybody's Reading Festival and Storytelling Week also helped to engage pupils, with high participation numbers and positive feedback.

WiT Summary

In summary, there had been some improvement in educational outcomes, but there remained some way to go to reach national averages. The school based projects had been shown to be effective in helping to progress towards that target.

Members welcomed the report, and noted that WiT had been running since 2009. The Director of Learning and Inclusion asked for feedback on which interventions had proved most effective over that period. It was confirmed that recently the focus had moved away from specific interventions and was now on providing better quality front line teaching. Results had improved markedly over the duration of the project, despite the impact of the many new arrivals in the city who were completely new to education and had little or no English.

7. City Catering charging arrangements

The Director of Learning and Inclusion advised that City Catering currently provided approximately 19,000 meals per day to 72 primary, 5 secondary and 2 special schools. The cost of a meal was currently subsidised in order to encourage take up, and since 2011 had been set at £1.75 in primary and £2.05 in secondary.

The Head of Finance had recently emailed headteachers and business managers to invite them to a briefing session at the end of June. It was planned to discuss potential changes to pricing and to suggest new mechanisms.

8. Election of Chair of Schools Forum

The Chair confirmed that he would be stepping down after the current meeting. He advised it had been a pleasure to act as Chair, and thanked members for their input and for the way in which they had worked together to address difficult issues in an environment of mutual respect.

Nominations were sought for a new Chair of Forum. Jim Cook was nominated by Simon Catchpole and seconded by Liz Warren. No other nominations were received, and Jim was duly elected by members.

That created a vacancy for the Vice Chair position, and nominations were requested. Glenys Mulvany was nominated by Peter Flack and seconded by Simon Catchpole. No other nominations were received, and Glenys was duly elected by members.

9. Proposed meeting dates for 2018/19 academic year

The proposed schedule of dates was approved by members, subject to a request to bring forward the November meeting by two weeks. This was in order to facilitate any notification of redundancies that might prove necessary once plans for de-delegation in the future were clarified.

Action: Clerk

10. Any other business

j) Membership of Schools Forum

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting that both Ian Johnson and Sandra Hamilton-Fox would be attending.

Ian had played a major role in the Formula Funding Review Group and had also provided much invaluable advice and guidance to Forum members over many years. His contribution would be sorely missed. Thanks were expressed to Ian for all his efforts.

Sandra had provided dedicated service as the Post 16 representative and always attended regularly. The Chair expressed his thanks for her contribution.

The Vice Chair expressed his thanks, on behalf of all Forum members, for the massive contribution that Peter Flack had made. Peter had been a member of Schools Forum since 2002, and had always put the children of Leicester first. As well as acting as Chair in recent years, he had served on the Funding Formula Review Group and contributed towards enhancing education in Leicester through a variety of other committees and positions. He would be much missed, and members wished him all the best for the future.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.55 p.m.