Leicester City Council Schools' Forum - Minutes

2 Additional Items

Minutes of the MS Teams meeting held at 2pm on Friday 9 October 2020

Present

Schools members:	**Name:**
Mainstream Academies:	Julie Robinson
Special Academies:	~
Special School Governors:	~
Special School Heads:	Sarah Osbourne
Secondary School Governors:	~
Secondary School Head representatives:	Anna White
Primary School Governors:	Liam Mahoney, Glenys Mulvany,Steve Wilson
Primary School Head representatives:	Matt Potts, Karl Stewart
Pupil Referral Units:	~

Non-school members:	**Name:**
Teaching Unions:	Jessica Edmonds (Chair)
School support staff Unions:	Sam Randfield
16-19 Providers:	No attendee
Early Years PVI Providers:	Matthew Leedham

In attendance:	**Role:**
Cllr Elly Cutkelvin	Deputy City Mayor (Education)
Sue Welford	Principal Education Officer
Simon Walton	Senior Accountant, Finance
Martin Judson	Head of Finance
Martin Walsh	Clerk to the Forum

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Shaun Whittingham

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Item 1 De-delegation

The Chair explained that there was a cost code error with the dedicated schools grant and this had now been corrected. The figures provided in the report now have the correct figures.

The Head of Finance explained that deficit is lower than expected. However, there is still a deficit. The options to reduce the deficit are.

- Reduce the facility time available
- Increasing the rate per pupil to meet the resource cost

The Chair explained that there had been a small change of staffing within the officers that use facilities time that will reduce the facilities time cost.

Members asked if the deficit could be attributed to the maintained or academy sector or both.

The Head of Finance explained that the deficit could not attributed to a specific sector and the rate that is paid on the de delegation does not cover the amount of case work.

Cllr Elly Cutkelvin explained that there was no evidence that the deficit could be attributed to any sector.

The Principal Education Officer explained that the proportions are relatively even. The local authority (LA) is expected to provide facility time as the employer, so the focus must be on maintained schools. However, this facility enables academies to buy in if they don't want to provide their own facility time.

Members asked if the LA contribution is factored into this arrangement.

The Chair explained that centrally employed teachers are not factored into this arrangement and this would need to be addressed.

The Principal Education Officer explained that it was only the SEND team that was not included.

Cllr Elly Cutkelvin explained that issues had been identified and this would be interrogated to ensure that the LA was contributing correctly.

Members asked there were any plans going forward to have a buy in option for facilities time instead of de delegation.

The Head of Finance explained that a buy in option had not been considered as part of the consultation.

Members asked if the NEU and NASUWT proportion is set by the proportion of teachers or by historic patterns.

The Chair explained this is arrangement was set by historic patterns.

The Principal Education Officer explained that there are members of different unions that are not covered by facilities time. Regional teams would also cover case work. It was also asked if the if the increase in rates was in line with the inflationary increase.

The Head of Finance explained that this was related to the pay increase for teachers.

The Chair explained that there are other arrangements for facilities time across the LA and other unions had been consulted during negotiations.

The Chair asked if the facilities time briefing paper should be included with the consultation documents along with the union position.

The Chair also requested the paper from the teaching unions could also be circulated with the consultation. Members agreed.

Members agreed that the consultation document could be sent out reflecting the current position.

5. SEND Consultation

Cllr Elly Cutkelvin explained that the SEND consultation was launched on the 2 October and noted that it would be discussed at schools' forum as part of the consultation. The consultation closes on 13 November so Forum would need to meet before the next scheduled meeting.

The Chair explained that the funding formula would see some schools receive increases in their funding and other schools would have their funding reduced significantly at short notice. Concerns were also raised by NEU members that there was no consideration for pupils with varying needs that required multiple members of staff for support. It was suggested that a meeting should be arranged to allow members to discuss the proposals. Guest speakers with expertise in SEND would also be invited.

Members noted that the nature of the banding system allows all children to be funded differently and this will need to be discussed in more detail as a collective group.

Members agreed to meet again on the 30 October along with other representation.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.45pm.

The 30 October meeting was subsequently postponed and re-arranged for 13 November.