

NOTICE
OF
MEETING
SCHOOLS FORUM

will meet on

THURSDAY, 28TH APRIL, 2022

At 2.00 pm

In the

GREY ROOM - YORK HOUSE, AND ON [RBWM YOUTUBE](#)

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES: MAGGIE CALLAGHAN, ISABEL COOKE, SARAH COTTLE, JOHN FLETCHER, ANDREW MORRISON, JOOLZ SCARLETT, CATHRIN THOMAS, MARTIN TINSLEY (CHAIRMAN), CHRIS TOMES (VICE-CHAIRMAN) AND MIKE WALLACE.

Karen Shepherd – Head of Governance - Issued: 20th April 2022

Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend Part I of this meeting. The agenda is available on the Council's web site at www.rbwm.gov.uk or contact the Panel Administrator **Oran Norris-Browne** Oran.Norris-Browne@RBWM.gov.uk

Recording of Meetings – In line with the council's commitment to transparency the Part I (public) section of the virtual meeting will be streamed live and recorded via Zoom. By participating in the meeting by audio and/or video, you are giving consent to being recorded and acknowledge that the recording will be in the public domain. If you have any questions regarding the council's policy, please speak to Democratic Services or Legal representative at the meeting.

AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
1.	<u>APOLOGIES</u> To receive apologies for absence.	-
2.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> To receive any Declarations of Interest.	3 - 4
3.	<u>MINUTES</u> To confirm the minutes from the previous meeting.	5 - 8
4.	<u>BUDGET OUTTURN & SCHOOL BALANCES 2021/22</u> Forum to consider the report.	To Follow
5.	<u>DEFICIT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022/23 TO 2026/27</u> Forum to consider the report.	To Follow

MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

Disclosure at Meetings

If a Member has not disclosed an interest in their Register of Interests, they **must make** the declaration of interest at the beginning of the meeting, or as soon as they are aware that they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or Other Registerable Interest. If a Member has already disclosed the interest in their Register of Interests they are still required to disclose this in the meeting if it relates to the matter being discussed.

Any Member with concerns about the nature of their interest should consult the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

Non-participation in case of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your DPIs (summary below, further details set out in Table 1 of the Members' Code of Conduct) you must disclose the interest, **not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room** unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted by the Monitoring Officer in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a DPI.

Where you have a DPI on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet Member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

DPIs (relating to the Member or their partner) include:

- *Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.*
- *Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses*
- *Any contract under which goods and services are to be provided/works to be executed which has not been fully discharged.*
- *Any beneficial interest in land within the area of the council.*
- *Any licence to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.*
- *Any tenancy where the landlord is the council, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest in the securities of.*
- *Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:*
 - a) *that body has a place of business or land in the area of the council, and*
 - b) *either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or (ii) the total nominal value of the shares of any one class belonging to the relevant person exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.*

Any Member who is unsure if their interest falls within any of the above legal definitions should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Other Registerable Interests (summary below and as set out in Table 2 of the Members Code of Conduct), you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting** but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Other Registerable Interests (relating to the Member or their partner):

You have an interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority*
- b) any body*
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature*
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or*

one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

Disclosure of Non- Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a DPI) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting** but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer) you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –

- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
- b. a financial interest or well-being of a friend, relative, close associate; or
- c. a body included in those you need to disclose under DPIs as set out in Table 1 of the Members' code of Conduct

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied.

Where a matter **affects** your financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer, you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Other declarations

Members may wish to declare at the beginning of the meeting any other information they feel should be in the public domain in relation to an item on the agenda; such Member statements will be included in the minutes for transparency.

Agenda Item 3

SCHOOLS FORUM

THURSDAY, 20 JANUARY 2022

PRESENT: Martin Tinsley (Chairman), Chris Tomes (Vice-Chairman), Isabel Cooke, Michael Wallace, Andrew Morrison and Joolz Scarlett,

Also in attendance: Councillor Maureen Hunt

Officers: David Cook, Clive Haines, James Norris, Kevin McDaniel, Sarah Ward and Tracey Anne Nevitt

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received by John Fletcher and Maggie Callaghan.

Andrew Morrison reported he would be late.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no dclarations of interest received.

MINUTES

Resolved unanimously: that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2021 were approved as a true record.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT MONITORING & BROKERING GRANT SUPPLEMENTARY CONSULTATION AND DE-DELEGATION 2022/23

The Forum considered a verbal report regarding school improvement monitoring and brokering grant.

The Head of Finance Achieving for Children informed that at their last meeting the Forum discussed the proposed reduction in funding. This reduced the grant by 50% for 2022/23 and 100% the following year. It had been confirmed that this reduction would be implemented.

Consultation was undertaken with maintained schools, 50% responding, asking three questions:

- Do you support the current service model and the proposal to de-delegate. 10% supported this.
- Do you support the current service and use of our reserve from previous years. 85% of schools supported this.
- Would you support a change in service and not funding from de-delegation. 5% supported this.

Given the results of the consultation it was proposed that we should fund the 2022/23 provision by using existing balances held by de delegation from existing years.

Chris Tomes said that 85% of schools had agreed with the proposal and asked this was funds that maintained schools had paid into and was informed that this was money from the last three years that maintained schools had paid into, £70k would be used and the rest reconciled back to the schools. Given the results of the survey Chris Tomes agreed with the proposal.

Mike Wallace said that 50% response was better than before but still not enough, however 85% of respondents did support the proposal. He supported the proposal and also recommended that a working group be established to look at the options when 100% of funding was removed.

Resolved unanimously: that funding for 2022/23 provision should come from existing balances held and that a working group be established during 2022 to look at future options.

BUDGET MONITORING AND FORECAST 2021/22

The Forum considered the report regarding the latest Budget Monitoring and Forecast for 2021/22.

The Head of Finance Achieving for Children informed the Forum that the report considered the projected financial position for 2021/22 along with a summary of associated Risks and Opportunities; the projected reserve deficit balance as at 31 March 2022 and an understanding of the financial pressures faced in respect of the Dedicated Schools Grant. A new report template was being used so it was accessibility compliant but the content remained the same.

The Forum were informed that table 2 set out the summarised financial position for 2021/22. With regards to the High Needs Block this showed a favourable movement of £260,000 compared to the previously reported position. This related to a reduction in the volume of pupils within the Further Education provision and AFC colleagues reducing the projected costs.

Overall there still remained a £936k in year deficit, combining this with the £1.8 million brought forward deficit this resulted in a £2.7 million pressure which results in a 2% deficit position overall.

The Forum were informed that paragraph 2.7 of the report showed two assumption associated with future risks around the Schools Block and High Needs Block. With regards to High Needs an estimated provision of £450k for future provision for the year had been set, although it was not expected to be exceeded.

The Chairman asked if we knew the number of children with education and health care plans would be coming forward and the Director for Children's Services reported that we received about 12 to 15 requests each week, with about 50 currently active in the process so the amount built into the forecast was a reasonable assumption.#

(Andrew Morrison joined the meeting)

It was noted that a Deficit Management Plan was being produced and would be presented at the April meeting.

Resolved unanimously: that Schools Forum notes the report and:

- i) the cumulative projected reserve deficit balance as at 31 March 2022**
- ii) the Deficit Management Plan would be reported in April 2022.**

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET ALLOCATION 2022/23

The Forum considered the report regarding an update on the indicative settlement for 2022/23 budget.

The Head of Finance Achieving for Children informed that table 2 set out the DSG December settlement for 2022/23 for each block compared with the provisional allocations received in summer 2021. The Early Years block funding was due to be updated in July 2022 to reflect the January Census.

- The Schools Block saw a decrease of £221k based on pupil lead numbers.
- Schools Block National Non Domestic Rates, allocation would be to sliced and used to pay rates.
- High Needs Block, an increase of £102k and the Supplementary Grant new allocation of £911,000 includes funding in respect of new burdens on the High Needs Block including the new Health and Social Care Levy estimated by the ESFA as 1% pressure on authorities' High Needs budgets.
- Early Years Block provisional allocation for 2022/23 was only provided as part of the December settlement and not included in the summer notification; the £10 million allocation included in table 2 reflects the ESFA funding increase for 2022/23 of 3.4%. It was anticipated that in accordance with regulations, 95% of the increase would be built into the Early Years funding formula with the remaining 5% retained for Central Early Years services. After consultation the results would be brought back to the Forum.

The Forum were also informed that there was the Supplementary Grant new indicative allocation of £2 million that provided support for the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider pressures. The level allocations of the schools' supplementary grant for the 2022/23 would be published in spring 2022. This funding would be allocated through the schools' supplementary grant 2022/23.

The Forum were informed that section 3 of the report showed the budget build process with the final budget due to go to Council in February 2022.

Resolved unanimously: that the Schools Forum noted the report.

The meeting, which began at 2.00 pm, finished at 2.30 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....

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