

DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS
Schools Budget Forum
Monday 13th January 2020

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

David Blackwell, Vince Browne, Cllr. Lis Burnett, Tim Exel, Mari Gibbs, Fiona Greville, Ceri Hoffrock, Lorraine Lancaster, Audrey Males, Gareth Rein, Hywel Price, Martin Price. Trevor Brown, Kelvin Law, Debra Thomas, Mairead Canavan, Sian Lewis, Trevor Baker

Also in attendance: Laithe Bonni, Lisa Lewis, Nicola Monckton, Carys Lord, Rob Thomas, Paula Ham, David Davies, Cllr Neil Moore, Iona Edwards

APOLOGIES:

Norman Craggs, Tyrone Davies, Terrie Vaughan-Taylor, Chris Britten, Cllr Rhiannon Birch, Bailey Russell

Item	Issue	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome & Apologies	The Forum wish to express their condolences to Chris Britten for his bereavement.	
2.	Minutes Matters arising	Agreed <u>Schools Strategic Reshaping Services group</u> – It was previously agreed that DT will chair the group but other members have not yet been identified. Any forum members who wish to express an interest should do so to NM. <u>Budget forum Constitution</u> – Unable to meet today as planned. VB to contact members of the agreed group to arrange a meeting in the coming week. <u>Mainstream Formula Review</u> – Annual review to be arranged.	DT VB NM
3.	Pay Policy	LB presented the Schools Pay Policy that has been completed in consultation with 5 other local authorities with in the consortium. It was brought to the forums attention that the Teachers Pay and conditions now refer to ‘your pay policy’ throughout. LB’s	

		<p>recommendation was for the policy to be taken to Governors for review and adoption.</p> <p>LB also made forum members aware that Teachers pay is now devolved to Welsh Government. This will result in a delay in the receipt of pay awards as any agreement by Westminster must then be agreed by Welsh Government before it can be implemented. Teaching staff did not receive pay awards until October 2019.</p> <p>Teachers will receive a Pay Statement annually in January detailing their pay grade and pay amount as at September.</p>	
4.	2020/21 Revenue Budget Proposals	<p>CL Presented initial revenue budget proposals, which were prepared prior to receiving the indicative settlement figure from Welsh Government. The proposals were based on an assumption that the settlement would be equal to or 1% less than 2019/20. However, the indicative settlement figure received in December was more favourable than anticipated and included a 4.9% increase for the Vale. The council are now looking at which cost pressures and savings should be met. This proposal will go to full council on 26th February 2020.</p> <p>VB wanted to express, on behalf of the forum, thanks for the consideration given to schools budgets.</p>	
5.	WG Response to CYPE Committee report on Education funding	<p>VB informed the forum that all recommendations to the CYPE report were agreed by WG.</p> <p>Recommendation 1- WG have commissioned Luke Sibieta to review the mainstream funding per pupil across wales and attempt to establish a minimum cost per pupil.</p> <p>VB raised the issue of the correlation of the IBA and previous years funding. Vale children are one of the lowest funded, per pupil, in wales. However as the IBA is based on previous years expenditure it is a regression analysis of spend and does not reflect that there has previously been underfunding. NM informed the forum that Welsh Government are looking at the feasibility of using a zero based budget approach to identify the cost of a child which would not be based on regression</p>	

		analysis of expenditure. NM and CL are working with Welsh Government and ADEW finance to review the WG SSA formula for Education and make recommendations.	
6.	HWB Update	<p>£2.1 million allocated to the vale in 2019/20. This funding covers everything up to the plug with networking plans having already been agreed.</p> <p>There is £1.5 million allocated in 2020/21 for end user devices with the aim of providing 2:1 devices in schools. 21st century schools are not eligible for this funding but central funds will be made available to ensure they meet the end user vision</p> <p>In future years, there will also be funding for professional development for staff to ensure that there is maximum use of the devices.</p> <p>KL raised concerns about the possibility of Learning & Skills ICT merging with central ICT and added that the service that schools receive must not be adversely effected as a result.</p>	
7.	ALN Funding Review	<p>DD presented information regarding how ALN is funded within mainstream schools, at present allocations are based on SAP numbers in addition to higher needs cases which are funded through the ANF panels. A funding review of ALN within Mainstream budgets is required in response to the growing need and the introduction of the ALN act.</p> <p>Primary ANF – Although the ANF panel is running successfully, the ANF budget has not increased in line with increasing needs and therefore the budget will overspend this year. The 2020/21 ANF budget within the formula will be increased to match level of need but the current year overspend will be charged back to schools as agreed.</p> <p>Secondary ANF – 2019/20 is the first year the funding has been allocated on a panel basis. The secondary ANF budget is projecting a significant 2019/20 overspend which will be discussed in full at a meeting with secondary heads, DD and NM to arrange Asap.</p>	

8.	Period Dignity Grant	2020/21 funding has been confirmed at £99k Schools are struggling to spend the current grant in line with the terms and conditions as the funding appears to be too generous for the annual level of need. NM to raise at ADEW finance.	NM
9.	Grants Update	NM presented an update: RCSIG and PDG - No information is available yet with regards to the 2020/21 RCSIG and PDG on an individual authority bases. Teachers' pay award grant 2019 – a grant of £530k has been allocated to schools based on teaching FTE towards the cost of the 2019 teachers pay award which at 2.75% was higher than the 2% already allowed for within the 2019/20 budget. A further £57k has been made available under the post 16 grant.	
10.	Reserves	NM presented the statistical bulletin on reserves held by schools in Wales as at 31 March 2019 and added that it was important to recognise that level of reserves is not an indicator of favourable funding but more of sound budget management by Head teachers and Governing Bodies. Reserves per pupil in the Vale of Glamorgan averaged at £123 per pupil compared to a Welsh average of £109. It was noted that the late allocation of grant funding from WG is impossible to plan for and can inflate school balances at the year end. PH reported that both ADEW and WLGA continue to lobby with Welsh Government to transfer grant funding into the SSA and abolish the current grants system.	
11	AOB	The forum wish to thank Gareth Rein for his contribution to the Budget Forum and wish him well for his new position.	