

DRAFT MINUTES- MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM (SFF)

8:00 – 12:00, 29 September

Hilton Maidstone, Bearsted Road, Maidstone, ME14 5AA

Present:

John Dennis (Chairperson), Phil Sayer (Vice Chairperson), Janice Brooke, David Stanley, David Whitehead, Alison Coppitters, Lynda Downes, Mark Tomkins, Michael Blanning, Richard Powell, Steve Avis (Substitute for Neil Willis), Jo Marchant (Observer), Alison Hook (Substitute Rosemary Joyce), Michael Powis, Ceranne Litton, Louise Burgess, Ben Cooper Roger Gough (Member), Patrick Leeson, Simon Pleace, Ian Hamilton (Clerk),

Apologies: Tracey McCartney, Annabel Lilley, Mike Smith

1.	<p>Minutes and Matters arising from the SFF Meeting 30 June 2017</p> <p><i>To access minutes click on this link SFF Minutes 30 June 2017</i></p> <p>The minutes from the SFF meeting on the 30 June 2017 were ratified as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters arising</p> <p>Andrew Fowler (Headteacher Dane Court Grammar School) representing Academies and Alex Tear (Diocesan Director of Education – Rochester Diocesan Board of Education) have both stood down as members of the SFF since the last meeting on the 30 June 2017. Appointments to both positions on the SFF will be facilitated in the near future.</p> <p>Item 3b from the minutes was a request from SFF members to provide an analysis of the costs of Mainstream High Needs re-applications at the next SFF meeting. The update to this item was not provided at this meeting but will be provided at the SFF meeting that will take place on the 10 October 2017. The reason for this is that this item is linked to the main business of that meeting which is High Needs Funding Review.</p>	
2.	<p>Schools National Funding Formula 2018-19 and beyond</p> <p>To access paper and presentation click on this link Paper Item 2 and Presentation Item 2</p> <p>A paper for this item was circulated to members of the SFF prior to the meeting and the presentation given by Simon Pleace was based on this document.</p>	

The key points from the discussion on this item were as follows:

- a) General support for the improved funding provided to Kent but frustration that some of the well-funded local authorities are not seeing any reduction in funding, and that only a portion of the unfair disparities between authorities has been addressed. This means that unfairness in funding between authorities will remain for many years.
- b) Recognition that there will be competing priorities for this additional funding.
- c) Some schools have had their expectations raised about pupil level allocations following the Government announcement.
- d) Concern for small Primary schools that appear to attract minimal additional funding under the NFF, and this is compounded as the NFF lump sum rate has been set at £110k, which is £10k lower than our current rate.

As a general principle the Forum believed that our local funding formula should start moving towards the NFF, although continuing to utilise local flexibility to address areas of local concern.

In relation to what happens next, members of the SFF agreed the following time table of events.

- 1) Commence an all school consultation in late October / early November.
- 2) Share results of the consultation with the Forum on 1 December.
- 3) Mid - December - KCC takes decisions on changes to the local formula budget for April 2018.
- 4) End of February 2018 - 2018-19 school budgets, using our updated formula, will be published.

A member of the SFF highlighted that in order for the consultation to be a success in the short time scale available it was essential that the LA make best use of all communication channels.

This point was noted and the following mediums will be used to advertise the consultation:

- e-bulletin
- Headteacher email
- Governors email
- Finance Information Groups (Area Bursar Groups)
- Kent Governor Association County Assembly
- Headteacher meetings
- EduKent EXPO

	<p>AOB</p> <p>There was no AOB.</p>																
	<p>Future SFF meetings for the 2017-18 Academic Year</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th><th>Timings</th><th>Venue</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10 October 2017</td><td>8:00 to 12:00</td><td>Venue to be agreed</td></tr> <tr> <td>1 December 2017</td><td>8:00 to 12:00</td><td>Mercure, Maidstone Great Danes Hotel</td></tr> <tr> <td>27 April 2018</td><td>8:00 to 12:00</td><td>Oakwood House, Maidstone</td></tr> <tr> <td>29 June 2018</td><td>8:00 to 12:00</td><td>Oakwood House, Maidstone</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Timings	Venue	10 October 2017	8:00 to 12:00	Venue to be agreed	1 December 2017	8:00 to 12:00	Mercure, Maidstone Great Danes Hotel	27 April 2018	8:00 to 12:00	Oakwood House, Maidstone	29 June 2018	8:00 to 12:00	Oakwood House, Maidstone	
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