

1.2 Announcements

(a) Andy advised the WSF that Sue Alexander had retired from WCC leaving the County Council at the end of April 2019 and paid tribute to her significant contributions to WSF and school funding matters. The Chair concurred and on behalf of the WSF thanked Sue

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(b) Andy confirmed following the support of the WSF, the submission of the APT for 2019-20 was made to the ESFA using the Year 2 NFF parameters and funding any shortfall from the Schools Block DSG overall, which now includes the national formula allocation for the Pupil Growth Fund. This approach has been approved by the ESFA with the 2019-20 shortfall of £0.461m being funded from the Schools Block DSG overall.

(c) The WSF noted the year on year changes in the data sets and NFF parameters. In particular, the need for a further £1.6m to support the MFLs and the increased requirement of £3.3m for the changes to the per pupil floor and ceiling.

(d) In response to questions from the WSF Andy confirmed the sparsity factor parameters were from the NFF and no transfer or top slice had been made from the Schools Block to support other DSG cost pressures.

12. REQUIRED CHANGES TO THE SCHEME FOR FINANCING MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

12.1 Andy advised that the DfE had published some changes to their statutory guidance governing the above scheme. The changes were detailed in the report and needed to be incorporated into the existing scheme.

12.2 Caroline advised on the changes made by the DfE to the Schools Financial Value Standard for 2019-20 with a more detailed declaration for the submission and it still including a requirement for 3-year budget planning.

RESOLVED –

On a show of hands, the Maintained Schools WSF members (3 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions) approved the required changes to the Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools and for its publication on the WSF web site.

13. F40 GROUP ISSUES

13.1 The WSF noted the campaign sheet, the updated NFF proposals and the notes of the DfE meeting on 9th April 2019.

13.2 The WSF also noted the retirement of the Chair and Secretary of the F40 Group and commended the roles they had played. The WSF were supportive of a renewed impetus in the new F40 executive group arrangements.

14. ACADEMIES UPDATE

14.1 The WSF noted the current academies position as at 1st May 2019.

14.2 The WSF discussed the current local and national position on academisation and the ability of schools to federate. Nick commented that there is pressure from the RSC for stand-alone academies to become part of MATs.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm

