

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)

**Wednesday 19 January 2023
Remote Meeting Held Via MS Teams**

The meeting started at 2.30 pm

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

3. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTERESTS WITH ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (23 November 2023)

Minutes agreed.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

c. Date of next week.

This was originally booked for the middle of half-term break so to be re-arranged.

d. New member

To fill the position of Governor for Middle Schools, Jo Kelleher from Bredon Hill Academy.

7. Cabinet Decisions

a. 8 December 2022 – Fair Funding for Schools 2023/24 National and Local Funding Arrangements for Schools (PR)

Cabinet agreed the local funding arrangements for schools. With Government announcement in the autumn statement allocated and additional £2b for school this was split £1.4b for schools and the remainder to HLN.

b. 5 January 2023 - Budget and Council Tax 2022/23 (PR)

Cabinet discussed the budget for the council, and it will now progress through the normal process. The local authority have again received another one-year settlement.

On 12 December 2022 the Government announced the DSG override for additional 3 years.

The council needs to make an additional £22m savings, due to the increased pressures of £64m next year.

PR and MB have again met with CIPFA and Newton Europe to progress our Delivering Better Values in SEND.

8. Provisional School Funding Settlement (RP)

RP went through the report with member of WSF. The main headline for this area is that the school block funding is affordable again this year to match the National Funding Formula.

Mainstream School Additional Grant 2023/24 is a new grant for the financial year 2023/24. It is expected to become part of the school block in financial year 2024/25.

A discussion on the impact on schools of this funding took place, it is the biggest one-off funding into schools and TO agreed to support further lobbying of Government if necessary for schools.

TO agreed, to take the concerns of WSF back to Cabinet that the funding is still insufficient for schools. When more details of the additional amount needed is available this is to be provided, as will aid the case going forward whilst discussing with.

Within 2020/21 the local authority made a loss within this area due to the pandemic, with the member of staff cost still sitting within this area, then member of staff was redeployed to support children missing education.

Within 2021/22 the local authority had a very small surplus, with 102 fines raised by the local authority. The average cost of these fines was £84, including court cost. This raised a debate around the subject.

Also confirming that any surplus should be given back to the secretary of state for Education.

The attendance guidance will continue as part of the government's ongoing work to improve attendance. SW suggested that the local policy is brought to WSF, to assist with an agreed approach around the local authority.

It was noted that the pandemic has affected attendance, and we now need to take a systematic approach to support and work with families to help ws374 560.7 Tm04 (ch n)4 (d)4 (a)h

