

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**

### 3. Apologies

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Ed Francis [EF]               | - HT Fort Royal Primary School   |
| Councillor Tracey Onslow [TO] | - Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills, Worcestershire County Council |

### 4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

CBi as a Volunteer Foundation Director of Our Lady of Magnificat Multi-Academy Trust and a family member who runs a nursery provision.

### 5. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTERESTS WITH ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

LP for Agenda Item 14 as Chadsgrove is properly one of the largest users of this item and whatever the outcome will have an impact on this school.

### 6. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (22 June 2023)

Minutes agreed.

### 7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None raised.

### 8. WSF Attendance Academic Year 2022 to 2023

The attendance for academic year and the constitution of the school forum.

We have several vacancies and want to maintain the group and recruit members to keep a balanced group. SW to write to the headteacher phase groups to ask for member to the WSF.

Governor vacancies, it is agreed that Worcester Children First (WCF) will email out to as many governors to seek membership applications to WSF. MR also suggested that it may also be appropriate to amend the constitution of WSF and its membership and who can elect members going forward.

RP to seek legal confirmation of changes to the constitution and find out the process. This is to be brought back to the pre-meeting.

### 9. Cabinet Report Financial Verbal update

CBi gave an update on the financial position of the county council, with pressures of £30 million underlying this year. We have one off funding to bring this figure down to £18 million.

This is mostly down to three areas, Children Social Care, Adult Social Care, and Home to School Transport, which are demand led services.

The £30 million does not include the DSG overspend, which is forecast to increase by a further £8 million this year.

BT asked, how close the county council is to a Section 114 notice, CBi confirmed that this is not presently on the table, and we are probably in the middle of the pack.

## **10. School and LA Funding overview**

### a) Indicative DSG rates for 2024/25

RP went through the report submitted to WSF, and that we will not know the exact figure until December.

LP asked if the £10,000 per place will be the same? RP confirmed that this will be the same for next year.

JH asked should we have a lobby group to increase the £10,000? BT confirmed that this would be go against government plans as looking at the option of transferring more children from special schools into mainstream SW also confirmed that the WCF will continue to look at this going forward and will continue to lobby and make this point were appropriate.

### b) School Block

RP presented the paper. No questions

### c) HLN Block

#### i. Funding PRUs/AP 2024/25

RP presented the paper. No questions

SW asked what Unity will receive, but this will need to be calculated as they have only just opened in September 2023.

### d) Early Year Block

#### i. Early Years Supplementary Grant

RP presented the paper.

VS confirmed that this is a hard year and emphasised the need to increase the salaries of staff to retain and to recruit new staff

SW confirmed that this is challenging for both the sector and the council.

RP confirmed that we are having EY briefings next week.

LP suggested, due to the increase of funded age ranges, that this could also lead to an increase in the number of children with SEN . RP confirmed the Department for Education had also confirmed that you can use EY block funding to cover the additional cost of inclusion, but

MP confirmed that the majority of EY funding is taken up with staffing and that is before other costs increasing.

JH agreed with MP but suggested that there does not seem to be any recognition in the funding for the additional works needed.

ii. Early Years Changes and timetable

RP presented the paper. No questions

SW confirmed that £12 million to help implement this process. RP confirmed this is how much Worcestershire will receive and then how this is spent.

iii. Early Years Consultation Government

RP presented the paper. No questions

No questions.

iv. Early Years Consultation Worcestershire

SW confirmed that the communication would go through the school phase leads so that they can share this with the individual schools and other mechanisms for the early years sector.

**13. Scheme for Financing Schools**

RP presented the paper with changes going forward to the Scheme for Financing Schools.

No comment read and then voted that this was approved.

**14. Equipment Policy**

MB raised this agenda item with WSF. She confirmed they are looking at a policy document going forward. D 11.52 Tf1 0 0 1 26.41 70 0 0 1 26.41 70 0 0 1 26.41 70 0 0 1 26.41 7