

**ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS FORUM
FRIDAY, 8TH OCTOBER, 2010**

Present:- Reverend Ann Wood, Councillor Paul Lakin, Anita Burtoft, Val Broomhead, Jane Fearnley, Margaret Hague, Ruth Johnson, Steve Clayton, Peter Hawkrige, David Silvester and Philp Robins.

In attendance:- David Ashmore and Vera Njelic.

116. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Geoff Gillard, John Henderson, Russell Heritage, Peter Leach, Graham Sinclair, Dorothy Smith and Julie Westwood.

117. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF THE MEETING

Agreed:- That Mr. Peter Hawkrige be appointed Chair of this meeting.

(Mr. Hawkrige in the Chair)

118. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 25TH JUNE, 2010

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th June, 2010 be approved as a correct record, subject to (i) the inclusion of the Reverend Ann Wood in the list of persons attending the meeting; and (ii) the inclusion of Mrs. Jane Fearnley in the list of persons who had given their apologies for that meeting.

119. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(1) CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (Minute No. 104) – it was noted that all schools which legally require Display Energy Certificates (DECs) should by now have obtained them - this only applies to buildings above a certain size, therefore some schools are exempt.

(2) Academies : Letters to Head Teachers from DfE (Minute No. 105) – it was noted that the letters were from Secretary of State for Education, the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP.

120. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2010/ 11

The Rotherham Schools Forum considered a report about the Dedicated Schools Grant. The report contained the outturn figures

for the 2009/ 2010 financial year and the agreed budget figures for 2010/ 2011.

Agreed:- That the contents of the report be noted.

121. BSF UPDATE

The Rotherham Schools Forum discussed the following issues concerning Transforming Rotherham Learning and Building Schools for the Future (BSF):-

(i) the coalition Government had terminated the Building Schools for the Future programme in Rotherham;

(ii) a decision about the Maltby Academy campus and possible new building was expected to be announced by the Government during December, 2010;

(iii) the BSF programmes of some fourteen local authorities would be continuing; those programmes had already reached a more advanced stage than the Rotherham BSF programme.

Agreed:- (1) That the Rotherham Schools Forum supports the Borough Council in expressing disappointment at the decision of the coalition Government to terminate the Building Schools for the Future programme in Rotherham.

(2) That a report about the Maltby Academy be submitted to the meeting of the Rotherham Schools Forum to be held during January, 2011.

122. THE ACADEMIES ACT 2010 & ROTHERHAM UPDATE

The Schools Forum noted the contents of HM Government Statutory Instrument 2010 No. 1937, the Academies Act 2010 (Commencement and Transitional Provisions) Order 2010 document.

It was confirmed that Brinsworth Comprehensive School and Wales High Schools had both become Academies with effect from 1st October, 2010 and it was anticipated that both schools would 'buy back' a number of existing services to schools already provided by the Borough Council. Saint Bernard's Catholic High School had registered an interest in becoming an Academy, although to date no Rotherham primary schools had expressed any interest.

Discussion took place on the funding of the Academies. It was noted

that the Government intends to review the methodology for distributing funding to Academies from 2011/ 12 onwards, including the calculation of the LACSEG (Local Authority Central Services Equivalent Grant).

It was also noted that Special Schools would be entitled to apply for Academy status with effect from September, 2011. Five of the six special schools in Rotherham had already achieved Ofsted 'outstanding' status and therefore would be entitled to apply for Academy status in 2011 should they wish to do so.

The Schools Forum also noted the following information about the possible establishment of schools in the region which would not be subject to local authority control:-

- a school for pupils aged 11 to 18 years, possibly using the former University of Sheffield premises near to Dearne Valley College;
- publicity about a 'free' school being established at premises within the Rotherham town centre;
- possible interest in establishing a school in the Catcliffe/ Waverley area on the boundary between Rotherham and Sheffield.

Additionally, the Winterhill Comprehensive School was considering a change to Trust status and the Brethren School was seeking to move from its current premises within the Hellaby Industrial Estate to alternative premises in the Aston or Anston area.

Agreed:- That the information be noted.

123. EARLY YEARS SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA

The Rotherham Schools Forum considered the following details:-

(a) From April 2011, all local authorities will be required to implement the Early Years Single Funding Formula. This was initially due for implementation in April 2010 under the previous Government but was deferred owing to concerns raised from stakeholders across all sectors of Early Years provision.

(b) The Early Years Formula Funding Group (EYFFG) established to develop a single local funding formula in Rotherham had proposed a formula to include three factors:-

- : a Base rate (mandatory);
- : a factor for deprivation (mandatory) based upon the IMD of pupils in

attendance;
: a factor for quality.

The factor for quality was yet to be finalised, but a recommendation from the Early Years Working Group proposed that this is based on providers achieving accreditation under the local 'Quality in Action' scheme.

Agreed:- (1) That the information be noted.

(2) That the Schools Forum supports the recommendations of the Early Years Formula Funding Group with regard to the proposed formula structure consisting of the three factors:- Base rate; Deprivation; Quality, for implementation in April 2011.

(3) That the position concerning the provision of funding for Early Years pupils with special educational needs be kept under review.

124. SCHOOLS FINANCE WORKPLAN 2010/ 11

The Schools Forum considered the contents of the Rotherham Schools Finance Workplan 2010/ 2011.

Agreed:- That the contents of the Schools Finance Workplan 2010/ 2011 be noted and kept under review in the light of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

125. SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES ON THE FUTURE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL FUNDING

Consideration was given to a report stating that in March, 2010 a consultation was launched by the previous Government on the future distribution of school funding. This followed a wide-ranging review of the mechanism for allocating the Dedicated Schools Grant announced in January 2008. The document set out the previous Government's proposals for distributing school funding from April 2011, including the principles which would underpin a new funding system and options for operating the DSG allocation formula. The consultation period had ended on 7 June 2010. The summary of consultation responses was included in the report submitted.

Agreed:- That the contents of the report be noted.

126. DFE CONSULTATION ON SCHOOL FUNDING 2011-12 - RMBC RESPONSE

Consideration was given to a report presented by David Ashmore, Resources and Business Manager, stating that on 26th July 2010, the coalition Government set out proposals for distributing funding for schools in 2011/ 2012. The consultation detailed options for the way in which the Government's policy to introduce a pupil premium for disadvantaged pupils should operate and sought views on the overall funding methodology for the next year.

The report stated that the level of funding for schools for 2011/ 2012 will be determined once the outcome of the Government's spending review has been announced on 20th October 2010. In reaching decisions, there will be a balance between taking urgent action to manage the public finances, while protecting the most vulnerable and recognising that education faces particular pressures.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That Rotherham's response (included as an appendix to the report) to the Government's consultation on school funding 2011/ 2012 be returned to the Department for Education by the deadline date of Monday 18th October, 2010.

127. COUNCIL REVIEW OF FINANCE FUNCTIONS

The Schools Forum was informed of the proposed changes to the Borough Council's organisational structure for Finance. These changes were having to be made as a consequence of the coalition Government's requirements for reductions in public expenditure, the details of which will be announced in the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review (October 2010). Proposals for the restructuring of Finance functions are being addressed as part of a whole Council review. A revised structure is expected to be issued early in the New Year, with changes taking effect from 1 April 2011.

Agreed:- (1) That the information be noted.

(2) That the Schools Forum be informed of the revised organisational structure in due course.

128. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Mr. Graham Sinclair – the Rotherham Schools Forum thanked Mr. Graham Sinclair for his work and support to the Forum over many years and wished him well during his forthcoming secondment to work with Sheffield City Council;

(2) Recruitment of School Governors – the Schools Forum acknowledged the difficulties of recruiting school governors and suggested that contact be made with the Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, to try and recruit appropriately skilled people from the business community;

(3) HM Government Department for Education - consultation about proposed changes to Schools' Financial Regulations : the Schools Forum noted the details of this latest consultation.

129. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- (1) That the next meeting be held on Friday, 5th November, 2010 at 8.30 am.

(2) That the dates and times of future meetings of the Rotherham Schools Forum be reviewed again early in 2011 .