

Schools' Members

John Beswick (Governor, Cordeaux, Louth), Terl Bryant (Governor, Stamford Queen Eleanor), Bill Bush (Headteacher, The Phoenix, Grantham), Sharron Close (Headteacher, Gainsborough White's Wood Junior), Professor Ken Durrands CBE (Governor, The King's, Grantham), Tony Gaskell (Governor, Lincoln Manor Leas Infant), Anne Grief (Headteacher, Long Sutton Primary), Roger Hale (Headteacher, Caistor Grammar), Richard Hardesty (Governor, North Cockerington CofE Primary), Dominic Loyd (Governor, Boston Tower Road Primary), Jeremy Newnham (Headteacher, Caistor Yarborough) and Jennifer Wheeldon (Headteacher, Scothern, Ellison Boulters Primary)

Officials

Children's Directorate – Debbie Barnes (Assistant Director) and Tony Warnock (Head of Finance), Performance and Governance Directorate – Steve Blagg (Democratic Services Officer); Communities Directorate – Doug Robinson (Sustainability and Climate Change Team Leader)

Apologies for absence:- Julie Marshall (representative of Private, Voluntary and Independent Early Year's Providers of the free entitlement to early years education), Michael Follows MBE (Governor, Boston John Fielding Community Special), Heather Steed (Headteacher, Boston Nursery School), Ian Wilkinson (Headteacher, Deeping St James's Primary) and Simon Hardy (Faith Groups)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Terl Bryant be elected Chairman of the Forum for the ensuing Municipal Year

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMEN

RESOLVED

That Mike Follows MBE and John Beswick be elected as Vice-Chairmen of the Forum for the ensuing Municipal Year.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCHOOLS' FORUM – 1 JUNE 2011 TO 31 MAY 2015

The Forum received a paper listing its membership for the period from 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2015. It was noted that there were eight vacancies on the Forum. The

Forum agreed that in view of the uncertainty about the number of Academies being created in Lincolnshire and the response to consultations by the DfE on, amongst others, the role of School Forums, the vacancies should be reviewed on an annual basis.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the membership of the Forum for the period from 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2015, be noted.
- (2) That the filling of the eight vacancies on the Forum be examined in a year's time and when the response to consultations by the DfE on, amongst other matters, the future of Schools' Forums, is known.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Forum held on 27 April 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

5. ACTIONS SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON 27 APRIL 2011

The Forum received a report detailing action taken on the minutes of the Forum since its meeting on 27 April 2011.

Further to minute 47 (Future for Digital Connectivity Across Lincolnshire), Debbie Barnes updated the Forum on the current situation, with regional procurement and East Midland Authorities being explored currently.

In response to an enquiry from the Forum about the use of filtering across the school network Debbie Barnes agreed to circulate the audit report and action plan on this area to the Forum, for information. The Forum supported the local authority's view on this matter as expressed by Debbie Barnes in that the County Council should take this issue seriously and were looking at ways of encouraging schools to adopt an intensive filtering system.

Professor Ken Durrands CBE and Richard Hardesty indicated their willingness to serve on the ICT Sub Group.

Further to minute 48 (Energy Update), Doug Robinson gave an update including automatic metering, the Revolving Fund, procurement of solar panels, including the renting of school roof space to companies and Professor Ken Durrands CBE had volunteered his services to help schools to reduce energy consumption.

Following comments made by the Forum Doug Robinson agreed that Bursars needed to be educated and trained on the use of automatic metering and the outcome of a pilot project would provide useful information to encourage the use of metering in schools. Doug Robinson agreed to consider this matter further in the Autumn. The Forum agreed that Doug Robinson should provide an update on energy to the meeting of the Forum in January 2012.

Further to minute 49 (School Funding 2011/12), it was agreed that the Forum would receive a report on the Baccalaureate at its meeting in October 2011.

RESOLVED

That the actions detailed since the previous meeting of the Forum on 27 April 2011 be noted and that the matters identified at the meeting today be actioned by officers.

6. LOANS SCHEME FOR SCHOOLS

Tony Warnock presented a report on the local authority's loans scheme for schools.

He responded to comments made by the Forum stating that the money for the loans scheme did not come from the DSG but was borrowed by the local authority. The scheme provided an opportunity for schools to invest to save and cited Doug Robinson's energy areas in this respect.

The Chairman stated that report should be sent to all schools if this had not already been done.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7. LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON: SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM: RATIONALE AND PRINCIPLES. ACADEMIES PRE-16 FUNDING: OPTIONS FOR THE 2012/13 ACADEMIC YEAR (minute 50, Schools Forum, 27 April 2011)

Tony Warnock presented a report detailing the response of the local authority to the DfE consultation on school funding reform which had been emailed to the Forum following the meeting of the Forum on 27 April 2011, for their comments.

He stated that the DfE was expected to respond to the consultation in the Autumn and an item had been added to the Forum's Work Programme for consideration at the meeting in October.

Comments made by the Forum and responded to by officers included the effect on Shire Counties' funding, the current scheme favoured urban areas, the effect on Lacseg and the comparison of funding between Academies and schools in the maintained sector.

The Forum agreed that when the response from the DfE was known the details should be circulated to the Forum. The Chairman stated that should it be necessary a special meeting of the Forum but would be arranged otherwise a report would be presented to the meeting of the Forum in October 2011.

RESOLVED

- (1) That as soon as the response to consultation from the DfE is known the Forum be informed and that a special meeting of the Forum be arranged, if necessary, otherwise the Forum receive an update at its next meeting
- (2) That Tony Warnock be thanked for his work in preparing the response to the DfE, in May 2011.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

The Forum received its Work Programme.

Comments made by the Forum included the need to resurrect the meeting between the Forum and the Executive, the role of the Forum, the effects of Academies and Free Schools, the need to consider insurance contracts and funding of specialist subjects.

Officers explained the current situation in connection with insurance contracts which was beneficial to schools as their premiums for insurance were cheaper. The Forum agreed that they were satisfied that this area had now been considered under its terms of reference.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Work Programme be noted and updated subject to:-
 - (a) The report to the special meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 26 July 2011 in connection with Academies being sent to the Forum.
 - (b) Roger Hale volunteered to become a member of the Working Party on streamlining of grants into the DSG.
 - (c) The audit report on fraud in schools being considered at the next meeting of the Forum.
 - (d) The submission of reports identified in minutes 5 and 7 (Energy Update and outcome of consultation from the DfE on school funding) at today's meeting, to a future meeting of the Forum

9. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

12 October 2011

25 January 2012

25 April 2012

27 June 2012 (agm)

All meetings start at 2pm at the County Offices, Newland, Lincoln.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm