

**DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Budget Forum**

**Wednesday 18th November 2015**

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| **ATTENDEES:** | Vince Browne, Norman Craggs, Tyrone Davies, Dave Dimmick, Tim Exell, Mari Gibbs, Ceri Hoffrock, Kelvin Law, Alec Lewis, Audrey Males, Mick Mason, Martin Price  Also in attendance: Trevor Baker, Catherine Wiltshire on behalf of Stephen Grech, Nicola Monckton |
| **APOLOGIES:** | Gerald Beaudette, Carole Browne, Cllr Elmore, Stephen Grech, Paula Ham, Dylan Jones, Huw Jones |

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| **ITEM** | **ISSUE** | **ACTION REQUIRED** | **NAME** |
| 1. | Welcome & Apologies |  |  |
| 2. | Minutes  Matters arising | Agreed  Covered on the Agenda |  |
| 3. | Initial Revenue Budget Proposals | NM presented the initial revenue budget proposals to the forum. Due to the Government spending review, the Council will not receive provisional and final budget allocations for 2016/17 until December 15 and March 16. This is much later than the usual settlement dates of October and December. Therefore the Council’s initial revenue proposals have been based on a number of assumptions around funding from the Medium Term Financial Plan.  It is not known yet if protection for schools will continue under the Minimum Funding Commitment. The initial budget proposals assume a MFC commitment of £477k. School cost pressures are in the region of £3M (including £1.2M for NI alone) and therefore schools will experience a significant real term cut based on these initial proposals. |  |
| 4. | National Statistics Report – Reserves Held by Schools in Wales | NM Presented the National Statistics for Reserves Held by Schools in Wales to the forum. Vale schools have the 4th lowest level of positive reserves per pupil at £131 per pupil; the Welsh average is £171. |  |
| 5. | Consortium EIG Proposals | NM presented the Consortium EIG proposals to the forum. The Consortium has reduced the EIG centrally retained CSC budget by £454k and more grant will be delegated direct to schools.  Due to the Government spending review, the EIG school allocations will be delayed until as late as the second half of March.  The Consortium has asked authorities if they would prefer EIG to be based on Plasc 2015 or unverified Plasc 2016. NM to feed back to the Consortium that Vale heads would prefer the certainty of funding from using Jan 15.  The 14-19 grant will be delegated to schools as part of the EIG in 2016/17. A regional EIG lead has been appointed by the Consortium, Martin Silizen.  Although EMAS and Gypsy Traveller grants are now part of the EIG, they will not be delegated to schools and will continue to be held and managed by each LA. | NM |
| 6. | Budget Forum Programme of Work | VB presented the Budget Forum 2016/17 programme of work to the forum. There are a number of pieces of work that require volunteers to work in focus groups. Volunteers to contact NM. | NM |
| 7. | Budget Meeting with the Leader | VB to prepare a presentation for the meeting with the leader to demonstrate the pressures faced by schools. | VB |
| 8. | Delegation of Breakfast Clubs to Schools | Breakfast clubs are no longer funded by a specific grant and funding is within the RSG. A focus group has been established to explore proposals to delegate breakfast club funding to schools. |  |
| 9. | Revised Redundancy Policy | Sue Alderman was unable to attend the meeting but provided the revised redundancy policy to be presented at the forum. The main financial implication is shown under Appendix 2 – all pension strain costs in relation to redundancy and retirement must now be met by the schools. |  |
| 10. | Strategic Plan for Reshaping ALN Services | ALN is within the next tranche of the reshaping services agenda and the directorate has been tasked with finding annual budget savings of £623k from April 2016.  David Davies attended the previous budget forum meeting and provided a summary of the plans for reshaping ALN services. David has provided the Strategic Document for Reshaping ALN Services for Budget Forum members to Contemplate. |  |
| 11. | Education Subscriptions | NM shared a list of subscriptions to organisations funded from the central education budget amounting to £23k. The forum agreed that the subscriptions are worthwhile services that provide value for money. Subscriptions are paid to   * Welsh Centre for International affairs * ADEW * WJEC * Sports Associations * SACRE |  |
| 12. | AOB | .**Lifelong Learning Scrutiny representation** – Cllr Johnson is no longer on the Lifelong Learning scrutiny committee and therefore the forum does not have representation from this committee. PH will submit a report to scrutiny to ask for a nomination. | PH |
| 10. | Next meeting | 08.30am Wednesday 20th January 2016  Llantwit Major Comprehensive School. |  |