

DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Budget Forum

Wednesday 7th December 2011

ATTENDEES: Janet Hayward, Phil Whitcombe (Chair), Sally Beresford, Gareth Rein, Mari Gibbs, Mick Mason, Daffydd Treharne, Norman Craggs, Tim Cox, Paula Ham. Also in attendance: Caroline Rees, Gemma Jones & Ian Teagle

APOLOGIES: Chris Britten, Vince Browne, Derek Mutlow, Martin Price, Gerald Beaudette,

ITEM	ISSUE	ACTION REQUIRED	NAME
2	Minutes & Matters Arising	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. It was noted that letters sent to the Minister had been acknowledged. It was agreed that the Budget Forum's response to the 2012/13 budget settlement be sent to the Leader of the Council with a view to inviting the Leader to meet with the Budget Forum.	PH/PW
3	MLD – Proposed secondary school funding	CR presented her paper briefly outlining the current funding methodology and the need to move to a more sensible formula using NFER and FSM data across all secondary schools rather than the four with what used to have MLD units. Concern was expressed regarding the relatively small sums of money involved to address an increasing need. The proposed methodology is transparent and fair to all secondary schools. Assurances were given that the SEN Panel would still meet to consider the needs of the more extreme cases. The proposed changes will not affect Primary schools. The proposed method has been discussed on several occasions with all secondary schools and it was agreed that the proposed methodology of 60% NFER and 40% FSM be adopted and implemented with effect from 1st April 2011 and to review the system after a year's operation.	CR
4	Post 16 Funding	IT explained the suspension by WG of the previous NPFS formula and the difficulties surrounding the use of January and September 2011 PLASC returns which generate the CEUs which were to be used to allocate funding. Concerns also exist over the accuracy of projected Post 16 numbers for January 12. As a result of several meetings with the secondary post	

		<p>16 representatives on Budget Forum and a general discussion with all secondary schools it was proposed that the January 12 PLASC post 16 numbers be used to allocate the post 16 funding for 2012/13 as the January PLASC numbers are audited for accuracy. It was felt that the January 12 PLASC numbers represented the fairest means of allocating resources until such time as a new WG formula. The Welsh medium pupil numbers would be weighted to reflect the current weighted CEUs for Welsh medium. Any in-year losses/gains would be tapered until such time as the new WG formula is operational. Indicative allocations will be brought to a future meeting subject to the availability of pupil data.</p>	IT
5	Draft Revenue Budget 2012/13	<p>PH presented the Leader's draft Revenue Budget 2012/13 report and drew the Forum's attention to the relevant paragraphs of the report. Concern was expressed over the level of efficiency savings the Directorate is required to make with an additional £257k in 2014/15. It as noted that the report did not contain all of the potential cost pressures and outlined risks associated with out of county placements by Social Services. GJ presented updated figures outlining the 1.58% uplift and demographic changes to the ISB in accordance with WG instructions. In addition GJ explained the transfers (Insurances, SEG/WEG and transport). The effect on the delegation of insurances will be brought to a future meeting for further consideration. It was noted that the Council will probably meet the 85% delegation requirement by means other than delegation of insurance. Concerns were expressed regarding the potential risks with delegating insurance and that these would have to be mitigated. It was noted that delegating the budget offered an element of safeguarding the budget. GJ outlined the areas of Inflation and Growth within the ISB including provision for Pay & Price inflation (£622k), Increments (including leadership, threshold, teaching & non-teaching £611k), increased ALN support (£190k) and increased provision for rates (£163k), which will be met from the increased ISB. GJ also outlined the level of efficiency savings required on the non-ISB budget. It was agreed that a meeting with the Leader of</p>	

		<p>the Council be arranged to allow the Forum the opportunity to put forward its concerns.</p> <p>PH outlined the main areas of the draft Capital Budget report and the proposed Capital projects.</p>	
6	AOB	<p>It was noted that the Final Revenue Settlement was due this week. It was also noted that WG had agreed to fund £450 per FSM entitlement though official notification was awaited.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.</p>	
	Date of Next meeting	<p>8.30am Wednesday 18th January 2012 at Bryn Hafren School</p> <p>Future meetings: 7th March 2012 and 9th May 2012</p>	