WALE of GLAMORGAN BRO MORGANNWG

DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Budget Forum

Wednesday 18th January 2012

ATTENDEES: Janet Hayward, Phil Whitcombe (Chair), Sally Beresford, Kath Hart, Mike

Clinch, Chris Britten, Vince Browne, Alec Lewis, Derek Mutlow, Mari Gibbs, Mick Mason, Daffydd Treharne, Norman Craggs, Gerald Beaudette, Paula Ham. Also in attendance: Lynette Jones, Reuben Bergman, Gemma Jones

& Ian Teagle

APOLOGIES: Audrey Males, Martin Price, Tim Cox

ITEM	ISSUE	ACTION REQUIRED	NAME
2	Minutes & Matters Arising	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. IT informed the group that other LAs were reconsidering how best to allocate Post 16 funding given the unreliability of the previous CEU methodology.	
3	SEG/WEG/14-19 update	LJ outlined the current position set within the consortia (Joint Education Service – JES) context. LAs are still awaiting guidance from WG but it is anticipated that the delegation rate will remain at 75% with allocations being made to LAs rather than consortia. There needs to be a harmonised approach across the 5 LAs making up the consortia. Overall SEG funding has increased despite the transfer of funding to supplement the Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) which is to be allocated totally to schools based on updated January 2011 PLASC Free School Meal entitlement for pupils aged 5-15. There is an issue where pupils are entitled to FSM but do not claim. PH informed the group that the LA is looking to link FSM with the benefits system to maximise RSG and PDG. LJ suggested that schools might be asked to continue funding catch-up CFS in 12/13 – Forum to discuss following the meeting with the Leader. LJ informed the group that Menna Roberts is the lead officer for WEG. Future plans to be shared with the forum. 14-19 to operate on a regional basis requiring a regional plan by 31/01/12. Funding for 2012/13 has been cut by 12% with a further 7% cut for 2013/14 with uncertainty surrounding future funding. DK will liaise with curriculum deputies and secondary head teachers. The Chair thanked LJ for her attendance.	LJ/DK

4	Single Status – JE/Equal Pay	RB updated the forum on implementation of JE, the appeals process and hardship/compensation payments with the cost of such payments being borne corporately by the LA not schools. With regards to Equal Pay claims RB outlined the current situation and the categories of staff affected; in schools this would include any directly employed cleaning, kitchen, MDS and breakfast club staff. Payments are to be made in April 2012 which schools would be expected to fund. Concern was expressed concerning the liability where staff have transferred from school to school and whether schools were being treated differently to other Council services. It was felt that this could be raised at the meeting with the Leader. Forum members will seek legal advice from their respective professional associations regarding employer liability. RB confirmed that the process covered all staff entitled to make a claim not only those that had. The effect on individual schools will be shared at the end of January 2012 with feedback needed by the end of February 2012.	
		GJ outlined the two options for apportioning costs to schools: a) on non-teaching 2010/11 budget — resulted in large variances; b) on need —could lose up to £100 or gain up to £500.	
		Concern was expressed for those with falling rolls. Schools felt they were led to believe that it would not affect school budgets and the forum require more information and time to consider. GJ to provide a few exemplars. RB re-affirmed that payments would need to be made in April. RB requested to maintain the integrity of the JE process that any regradings/new jobs go through the JE process. The Chair thanked RB for his attendance and congratulated the Council on seeking agreement with the unions on this challenging agenda.	GJ
		The forum felt that RB should attend a future Head Teacher meeting to give an update as it was felt to be such a significant issue.	

5	Draft Invest to save scheme	IT presented the draft scheme outlining the main points. The scheme is another "tool" available to schools to work individually or in clusters to assist the budget efficiency challenges. Schemes could be income generating as well as reducing expenditure. The scheme has been agreed with Audit; funding is limited and the first call on the reserve will be the continuation of the VER/R Scheme. IT to confirm whether Cabinet approval is required before implementation.	IT
6	Preparation for meeting with the Leader	PH presented the latest budget statement highlighting the 1.58% uplift in ISB plus £381k increase for demographic changes thereby meeting WG's minimum funding requirement. GJ updated the group on delegation of insurances in that legal advice was being sought on delegation of employers liability. The Chair asked each member to come up with at least one point each which should be sent to IT for collation and liaison with the Chair.	ALL/IT
7	AOB	MC raised the issue of LSA 1:1 funding and reimbursement of costs. IT agreed to confirm with MC the current position. IT asked schools to submit their LMS pupil number returns by the deadline (27 Jan).	IT
	Date of Next meeting	Extraordinary meeting with the Leader of the Council 8.30am Tuesday 7 th February at Bryn Hafren School Future meetings: 7th March 2012 and 9 th May 2012	