

## SCHOOL BUDGET FORUM

5<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Conference Room 1a, County Hall, Ruthin

### Attendees:

#### MEMBERS:

Karen I Evans(KIE)  
Neil Foley(NF)  
Dr Paul Evans(PE)  
Dominic Tobin (DT)  
Sue Dick (SD)  
Bethan Cartwright (BC)  
Mari Gaskell (MG)  
Teleri Llwyd Jones (TLJ)  
Rona Jones (RJ)  
Mark Hatch (MH)  
Gethin Jones (GJ)  
Geraint Parry (GP)

Head of Education & Children Services  
Prestatyn High  
Denbigh High  
Blessed Edward Jones  
Ysgol Bodfari  
Ysgol Glan Clwyd  
Ysgol Llywelyn  
Ysgol Borthyn (Vice Chair)  
St Brigid's – (Chair)  
Ysgol Dinas Bran  
Ysgol Tremeirchion  
Ysgol Brynhyfryd

#### NON-MEMBERS:

Craig Joyce (CAJ)  
Cathy Howatson (Minutes)  
Vicki Cotgreave (VC)  
Laura Poole (LP)  
Chris Speed (CS)  
Joanne Moore (JM)  
Ian Land (IL)  
Richard Hatwood (RH)  
Kevin Mowbray (KM)  
Jamie Roberts (JR)

School Funding Manager  
School Funding Officer  
Ysgol Y Castell  
Business & Finance Manager – Faith  
Principal Finance & Assurance Officer  
Performance & Business  
Planning + Resources  
Inclusion Officer  
Finance Manager - Dinas Bran Cluster  
Business Manager - Dinas Bran Cluster

### Welcome

Rona Jones (Chair) welcomed group.

**12 members were present to the meeting to make it quorate.**

### 1. Apologies

Paul Senior – Senior Finance Officer,  
Geraint Davies – Principal Education Manager  
Lindsay Davenport – Secondary Governor rep  
Bethan Jones – Ysgol Gwernant  
Catherine Patterson – Ysgol Penmorfa

### 2. Minutes from 9/10/17. Minutes agreed by forum.

### 3. Membership of SBF – Craig Joyce

**Primary Governor Representative** – Geraint Davies will be meeting the Governors association on 15/03/2018. He will ask for a representative to attend the SBF on behalf of the Primaries.

**Union Representative** – Geraint Davies will be meeting with Education Consultative Partnership on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018. As an agenda item it will be discussed and a rep to be selected to become a member of the SBF.

LP asked if the Union member had to be from a teaching Union? CAJ confirmed from the SBF terms of reference it states a Teaching Trade Union representative.

#### 4. Primary / Secondary SEN Budget Next Steps – Joanne Moore (see report for detail)

JM and RH attended the meeting. It was felt the meeting held in November to discuss the next steps was helpful. The consultation process has now been completed. A successful majority decision was made from the Chair of Clusters Forum on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.

##### Summary of Additional Services to be funded

Service	Costs
ASD/Social and Communication extended Outreach Team	£61k
Pre-school to Nursery Transition	£25k
Extended Outreach to include Nursery to Reception Transition and extended Primary Behaviour Support	£41k

The recommendation to the SBF is to ratify the agreement.

RJ - Some governing bodies didn't agree but it was a majority vote.

**ACTION - The forum voted to agree the additional funding for SEN.**

#### 5. Business Support Review - Craig Joyce

The recommendation for the forum is that the money would be split 80% fixed element / 20% pupil numbers. The figures have changed slightly as September 2018 data has been used and the indicative budgets sent out include this update.

RJ – There are some winners and losers we can see from receiving our budgets, but this is to be expected in any adjustment to the formula.

MH understood the need for the review but was not obviously

**ACTION – The Forum voted to agree the amendment of the budget formula with regards to the Business Support allocation for Business & Finance Managers.**

*GJ arrived at the meeting 1.30pm*

#### 6. Sustainability – Ysgol Dinas Bran

MG wanted to know on behalf of Lindsey Owen (the Business and Finance Manager for Rhyl Cluster) whether schools could apply for sustainability mid-year and could any allocation be back-dated?

CAJ – in theory it was agreed that schools could apply for sustainability if they felt there was a specific issue in a school under this heading.

Each application would have to be made on an individual basis and it would be possible to back date any payment if the Business case was robust and specifically required this. No payments would be back-dated for more than one financial year.

MH thanked to forum for the support and funding for 2017/18.

The allocation awarded for transport was £200k but cost have increased on what was projected with current numbers and the current situation. There are 138 leaving in Year 11 and there may also be a possibility that pupils who live in Garth and Trevor may need another bus.

JR - currently we are unable to work out exactly how much the transport costs will be for 2018/19. The school has an intake of 200, so far 185 have applied.

IL has been working with passenger Transport looking at figures. The predicted costs from Peter Daniels are £213k for 2018/19.

IL had asked whether the school had produced a Business Case for the forum, but the school were under the impression that the Business case would be as per 2017/18 just with updated costs.

KM – Projection going forward around £218k. School are requesting £220k as this would cover the £2k overspend which has taken place during 2017/18.

IL – it is the expectation that a Business case is presented every year to ensure discussion takes place.

RJ - There may also be new members on the forum who aren't aware of the historical agreement.

MG asked for clarification of what was agreed. Was it the £200k estimated for 2017/18 or could the school retrospectively claim more funding?

CAJ - The minutes states the allocation can be claimed retrospectively, but likewise funding could be taken off the new year allocation if the school had claimed too much.

KE – The business case is required to refresh memories of what has been discussed previously by the forum and also needs to be bought back for discussion on case appreciation to fairness and change. It would be helpful to recirculate it.

JR – If the allocation was taken away it would impact the school massively.

PE asked if the transport is for pupils who are out of the catchment area, because in the Denbigh cluster Y Faenol are a feeder to DHS but not there is no transport provided to DHS. This means those pupils go to Conwy or other schools.

CAJ commented that the school receive the allocation because >50% of their pupils come from out of county.

KE agreed the SBF can look at it again and gave the forum information regarding the boundary changes.

IL – there are other options that may be available and these can be looked at year on year. There is the possibility of parents paying for transport through ParentPay which could be phased in yearly, so that each new year 7 intake was not eligible for free transport until this ran throughout the year groups.

MH agreed other options could be a possibility, which we need to start looking at for 2019/20.

KE feels it is a good idea to revisit and reevaluate the allocation for sustainability for transparency. It impacts on Secondary schools only and not Primary schools. The current situation needs reviewing and a plan agreed going forwards.

LP asked whether a reduction in pupil numbers for YDB would affect the total DCC funding pot from Welsh Government. Richard Weigh has looked at this previously, the overall pot would eventually reduce for DCC but this would affect the pupil allocation for YDB and not necessarily other schools. The sustainability funding wouldn't be affected by this but the funding could possibly be removed from the schools pot as an efficiency saving, but this was a decision for members.

MH felt we could change it but is not confident they would get the children from the areas that use the buses as parents wouldn't be happy to pay.

BC – Agreed a copy of the business case should be submitted to refresh memories. Also we need to meet the needs of pupils in DCC. The Welsh provision in the budget formula also needs to be re-visited.

GP agreed schools should be support each other in order to keep each school stable.

IL felt the business case needs to come back to forum to be considered each year.

GP – when will process start? It needs to be at the next meeting to ensure schools have time to plan for the following academic year.

RJ asked group to vote.

IL quoted a lower amount of £213k should be agreed and re-visit at the allocation for 2019/20.

**ACTION: The forum voted in agreement to award Ysgol Dinas Bran with £220k for 2018/19. (£218k for the new financial year and £2k retrospectively for 2017/18.)**

## 7. Matters arising from Clusters

### Indicative Budgets

RJ is feeling bereft after receiving the indicative budgets. Secondary schools have taken a big hit and asked where do we go from here? The Finance Manager for St Brigid's has produced a model for the school including NI/Super annuation figures with the real term costs increasing that are not in line with the budgets. Can schools deficit licenses be extended? How sustainable are schools going to be? There will be wellbeing concerns.

LP recalled at one meeting it was discussed about pressure being applied to Councilor's to increase council tax costs.

KE – Council tax has already increased in DCC and there are pressures in education and social care. We have retained support from elected members given to Education but there are increasing pressures in Denbighshire.

KE suggested a Budget workshop for the SBF maybe useful, this is a meeting to be held in addition to the next SBF in May. Invite to be extended to Richard Weigh, Section 15 Officer, Steve Gadd Chief Accountant and Huw Hilditch, Lead member for Education.

CAJ – Secondary schools have received enough money to cover pay rises in their budgets but the Post 16 grant reduction has affected schools.

KE – there is a possibility of money coming in from WAG in the form of a grant. But that means it is likely to arrive with a criteria of how it has to be spent.

WG will not change their view or approach. We need to review our position, hold the workshop and look at policies and decisions to take forward. Possibly review the pay policy for teachers as teachers currently automatically move up between pay scales. We need a debate on how difficult it is going to be going forward.

MG – The SEN exceptional need pupil value has reduced which means the needs are increasing but the staff will need to decrease.

VC has concerns schools may not be meeting the exceptional need criteria for pupils.

KE – A debate is need on what is statutory in schools. This will include legislation going forward.

**ACTION – CH to arrange Budget Workshop after Easter Holidays.**

## 8. AOB

None

**Date of next meeting – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Conference Room 1a, County Hall, Ruthin**