

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Ceredigion Schools Budget Forum held at  
Ystafell Aeron Fach, Canolfan Felinfach on Monday, 19 May, 2014.**

**Present:** Councillor Hag Harris (Chairman).

**Non-schools members:** Mr Eifion Evans, Mr Gwyn Jones.

**Schools members:**

Primary Schools Representatives: Lodwick Lloyd and Peter Wellington (Governors).

Secondary Schools Representatives: Derrick Jones and Chris Evans (Governors).

**Officers in attendance:** Chris Macey (DECS – Head of Financial Services), Kay Davies (Democratic Services).

7.00 pm – 8.40 pm

**1 Apologies**

Councillors Ellen ap Gwynn and Paul Hinge, Anna Williams, Stephen Cooper, Meinir Lewis and Alwyn Ward apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.

**2 Disclosures of Personal Interest**

There were no disclosures of personal interests.

**3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **AGREED** to confirm as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January, 2014.

**4 Matters Arising from the Minutes (13.01.14)**

There were no matters arising.

**5 Formula Funding 2014 – 15**

The Strategic Director for Learning and Partnerships reported that this year's formula has been created based on the Pupil Teacher Ratio and to take account of the £2m cut in funding for the service to reflect the challenge the county faces this year. It is anticipated that further £10m will have to be found by the county next year and this in turn will pose a serious challenge to schools.

The Head of Financial Services, Chris Macey, and the team have worked closely with schools this year and all but 2 schools will remain in credit this year. Chris Macey led the meeting through the report. It was noted that the new formula is deemed to be a fairer system but remains a challenge for most schools especially for those who do not have sufficient funding reserves. Some schools have had to undertake major restructuring and staff cuts to meet the challenge of

remaining within budget. Careful monitoring of their respective situations is ongoing.

It was **AGREED** to note the information provided.

**6 School Reserve Funds – March 2014**

It was reported that primary school reserve funds have increased each during the year, whereas secondary and all-through school reserve funds have fallen during the year. Overall, there was a small decrease in net reserves. It was noted that primary schools have good financial management and the debt of the secondary schools in deficit is likely to decrease by the end of the 2014-15 financial year. Steps have been taken to work closely with schools which have already used their reserves in order to ensure that they do not enter a deficit position..

It was **AGREED** to note the information provided.

**7 Learning Services Financial Performance 2013-14**

Chris Macey presented the draft report. He reported that there is a reduction in ALN income as there are fewer pupils from out of county. Restructuring of one-to-one posts is being undertaken with alternative methods of helping pupils with ALN being implemented.

It was **AGREED** to note the report.

**8 School Effectiveness Grant**

The Strategic Director for Learning and Partnerships informed the meeting that distribution of the School Effectiveness Grant is determined regionally. Schools that underperform are targeted and funding is awarded to schools that perform well within the same cluster so that they manage the funding and influence underperforming schools. Partnerships are also created between schools from different counties in order to raise standards. Final figures will be available at the next meeting.

The Strategic Director for Learning and Partnerships noted that it is the Strategic Board, of which he is Chairman, who decide and recommend grant awards.

It was **AGREED** to note the information provided.

**9 Post-16 Education Grant 2014-15**

The Strategic Director for Learning and Partnerships informed the meeting that all authorities in Wales have received reduced Post 16 Education Grant funding due to the new funding formula used by the Welsh Government. The 2008 forecast population figures used rather than the 2011 census figures has worked against Ceredigion. WG intend to review the formula for 2015-16

It was **AGREED**;

(i) To note the information provided

- (ii) School governors to write to the Minister, through Governors Wales, to object to the current formula system.

10 **Any other business**

The date of the next meeting will be circulated shortly.

Confirmed at the Meeting of the Forum held on xxxxxxxx, 2014.

**Chairman**