

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Ceredigion Schools Budget Forum held at
Ystafell Aeron Fach, Campws Felinfach on Thursday, 17 November, 2016.**

Present: Councillor Hag Harris (Chairman).

Non-schools members: Matthew Brown (Head of Learning Services)

Schools members:

Primary Schools Representatives: Lodwick Lloyd (Governor).

Officers in attendance: Chris Macey (Head of Educational Finance & Resources), Anna Gawthorpe (Democratic Services).

7.00pm – 7.50pm

1 Procedure

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

2 Apologies

Councillors Ellen ap Gwynn, Councillor Paul Hinge, Donna Hanley (Head Teacher Ysgol Gynradd Aberteifi), Alwyn Ward (Head Teacher Ysgol T. Llew Jones), Meinir Lewis (Head Teacher Ysgol Gynradd Llechryd), Steve Johnson (Head of Finance) and Barry Rees (Strategic Director of Learning and Partnerships) apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.

3 Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of personal interest.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **AGREED** to confirm as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2016.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Minute 5: It was noted that 6 of 7 Secondary Schools in the County have implemented the cashless catering system. General feedback is positive, particularly with regards to those receiving Free School Meals.

Minute 10: It was noted that staff meals will not be free from 1st January 2017, due to the Staff Working Time Directive. Given that Staff are required, by law, to get a lunch break, it is no longer acceptable for the County to provide free meals to staff. All staff meals in primary schools will be £3.50.

6 Draft Delegated Budgets 2017-2018 – Primary Sector

It was noted that the draft budget has been made available to the service, however due to time constraints it was not possible to prepare the information for this meeting.

It was noted that the delegated budgets presented to the forum are a draft, and that this is liable to change following County Council budget consideration in January.

It was noted that the budget for free swimming lessons for both primary and secondary schools have altered following Cabinet decision C38 on 28th June 2016. It was highlighted

that swimming lesson provision has been reduced for primary schools and ceased for secondary schools meaning it is not a statutory requirement. The forum was informed that the cost per pupil varies between schools due to the size of the schools, as costs are higher per pupil in smaller schools. It was noted that the formula for delegating budget has not changed and that there is increased pressure on schools across the county following increased inflation rates.

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

7 Draft Delegated Budgets 2017/18 – Secondary Sector

Chris Macey, Head of Educational Finance and Resources again noted that delegated budgets are in draft form, and may be liable to change in January 2017.

It was noted that the formula for delegating budgets for secondary schools has not changed, however it was acknowledged that it had been considerable time since the formula was considered and that re-evaluation of the formula may be necessary in the near future.

The Forum was informed that secondary school budgets are varied upon the size of the school, similarly to that of primary school budgets; in addition to this, budgets are variable depending upon specialist units that schools facilitate.

It was noted that services throughout the county are under pressure at present due to a difficult financial climate.

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

8 Learning Services Financial Performance in Quarter 2 2016-17

It was noted that the report has been presented to Cabinet, and that at present the situation is under control. However it was noted that the situation can be volatile and is liable to change.

It was noted that more extensive data and subsequent detail of the situation would be possible in preparation for the next meeting of the Forum, following the conclusion of the financial year.

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

9 Any other urgent matter

It was noted that discussions continue regarding the position of the 21st Century School in Ceredigion. The forum were informed that when further knowledge regarding the position of the Council in relation to the matched funding from Welsh Government is known, the Council may be in a better position to begin discussion with schools.

The Chairman wished everyone well over Christmas.

Date of the next meeting: to be confirmed.

Chair: _____

Date: _____