

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

16 November 2021

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Brenda Harrison (In the Chair)

Councillors: Tim Fleming and Christopher Groves

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2, Councillor Brian Cowie was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Tom Cassidy

Co-opted Members:

Mark Tilling, Secondary Head Representative
David Turner, Primary Head Representative
Zoe Westley, Special School Head Representative

Officers: Sally Robinson, Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services
Amanda Whitehead, Assistant Director, Education
Ann Turner, School Governor Support Manager
Sandra Shears, Head of Finance (Corporate and Schools)
Julian Heward, Senior Communications and Marketing Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

34. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jim Lindridge, Shane Moore, Tom Cassidy and Joanne Wilson, RC Diocesan Representative.

35. Declarations of Interest

None.

36. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2021

Received.

37. Dedicated Schools Grant (Former Education Services Grant Rate per Pupil) Disapplication Request *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services/Director of Resources and Development)*

Type of decision

Key tests (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Reference CJCS 116/21

Purpose of report

To inform Members of the outcome of Schools' Forum held on 19 October 2021 and their decision in relation to the 2022/23 Education Services General Duties Rates.

To agree that the local authority should present a disapplication request to the Secretary of State in order to ensure that the local authority can discharge its statutory responsibilities.

Issue(s) for consideration

Members were advised that two other disapplication requests in relation to the high needs block and early years which had been included in the Forward Plan for consideration at this meeting had not been submitted for consideration as no decisions were required, the background of which was outlined.

The Schools' Forum had considered the local authority's proposal of a rate of £60 per pupil for statutory duties from the Dedicated Schools Grant in line with the Government's national funding arrangements. The Schools' Forum, did not agree to transfer the funding to the local authority as they considered that funding statutory duties from schools' budgets was a budget cut and that this should be funded by the Government. This has been a consistent view of Schools' Forum for the past five financial years. In each of these years, the local authority had successfully applied to the Secretary of State for disapplication of the Regulations which had resulted in the local authority being able to remove the required element of funding to ensure that statutory responsibilities were discharged.

Decision

- (i) That the 2022/23 funding rate at £60 per pupil/place be agreed.
- (ii) That the disapplication request to the Secretary of State to set the Education Services General Duties rate at £60 per pupil/place for 2022/23 be submitted.
- (iii) The Committee noted that this would be the sixth consecutive year the local authority had applied for disapplication and that the previous five applications had been successful.

38. Approval of Term and Holiday Dates 2022-23 (*Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek agreement of the Committee to the pattern of school term and holiday dates for the school year 2022-23 for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools.

To seek agreement of the Committee in recommending these dates to governing bodies of Aided and Foundation Schools and academies in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration

Members were advised that local authorities for a number of years had tried with some success to agree a unified calendar of term dates across the northern region from Yorkshire to Northumberland, based on guiding principles agreed by the regional group in 2012-13.

In the late spring representatives from the Tees Valley region and other north east representatives consulted on a pattern for 2021-22 based on the guiding principles, details of which were set out in Appendix 1. The proposed pattern enabled schools to begin the academic year on Thursday 1 September 2022 and end the year on Thursday 20 July 2023.

Following consultation with Head Teachers in Hartlepool, arrangements were made to consult on a further pattern proposed for 2022-23, as set out in Appendix 2. The pattern would enable schools to begin the academic year on Friday 2 September 2022 and end the academic year on Friday 21 July 2023.

Decision

- (i) That the scheduled term dates and holiday dates for 2022-23 for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools (to commence on 2 September and end on 21 July), as shown in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.
- (ii) That the scheduled term and holiday dates for 2022-23, as set out in Appendix 2, be recommended to governing bodies of all Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools, as well as academies in Hartlepool.

39. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was reported that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 18 January 2021 at 4.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 4.10 pm

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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