

f40 Executive Meeting

**Amerton Farm, Staffordshire
2nd April 2005**

1. Attendance

Doug Allan, DTW
David Rowlands, Cheshire
Joe Jefferies, Notts, NASUWT
David Smith, Wigan
David Kidney, MP, Stafford
Gill Lane, NAGS, Notts
Jonathan Pearsall, Worcestershire
Gillian Hayward, Gloucestershire
Peter Clarke, Gloucestershire
Mary Binnie, Stockport
Eunice Finney, Staffordshire

2. Apologies

John Herbert, Association of Leicestershire Governors
Kevin Crompton, Solihull MBC
Jon Mager, East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Helen Donovan, Parent Campaigner, Worcestershire
Chris McDonald, Staffordshire
Jo Davidson, Gloucestershire CC
Barbara Westwood, Bury

3. Minutes of 19 February 2005

Agreed as correct record. All

4. News release (8 March 2005)

Not much known coverage in national media. Reiterate key points and re-issue. DA

Request Directors to issue locally via parents and governors, or via School Forums. DA/DofE

Ask National Governors Council if they can use the release DA/NGC

5. Operation Note re Activities

DA discussed the 'actions' list presented in the operation note relating to the meetings of 19th February and 6th March. -

6. Consultation re funding

- DS presented his own council's (Wigan) response to the consultation and a draft f40 response for consideration. -
- The Group accepted the draft response and thanked DS for his excellent work. It is recognised that the calling of a general election may lead to an extension of the consultation period – perhaps by 4 weeks to mid-June. The government will issue guidelines on this after the election is called. All
- f40 will wish to involve new MPs/councillors after the election. Our databases will need urgent updating and a letter about the campaign will be sent to all of them. DA
- The Secretariat to forward to Government with appropriate covering letter from the Chair. DA
- DK to forward to co-signatories a copy of his letter to Government Ministers. DK
- DA to consider method of circulating response to f40 LEA School Council's chairs. DA
- Copy to go to all MPs in f40 areas once election is held. DA
- DA to draft a news release relating to the response to be issued simultaneously with delivery of response to Government. DA
- DA to copy response to LGA. DA

7. National campaign

- The campaign pack was presented and approved. All
- Timetable for implementation agreed. All
- Draft 'local' news releases to be sent to Directors, Executive and 'politicians' database to coincide with them receiving the campaign pack. The version prepared by DA was approved as a 'feature' story. DA to prepare a second, shorter version for news reporters. DA
- Jon Mager to be asked if NASUWT/NUT/ATL unions could be sent a copy of the Model for their assessment, and potentially for promotion. DA/JM
- GL/GH attending National Association of Governors conference in Bristol on 23 April. DA to provide 150 copies for them to hand out. DA
- JP also requested an additional 10 packs for use among colleagues in his area. DA
- DA indicated he was having difficulty getting school address labels from some f40 authorities, which may cause difficulty to the campaign. DA to circulate a list to Executive for their follow-up. DA/All

All Directors to invite School Forums to get involved with campaign. All

DA to seek contact details for all chairs of School Forums from DfES. DA

8. f40 Pupil Entitlement Model

JP gave a briefing on how Worcestershire had involved themselves in the trial of the Model. MB indicated her authority has purchased the Model. PC indicated that Gloucestershire is studying it. -

DK has written to Government Ministers and feels positive about the situation. The letter had 'all party' authorship. -

A planned Parliamentary Briefing for 6th April with an all-party group of MPs had to be cancelled due to the election. It will be reorganised after the election. DK/JM

DK will be contacting the PM's Delivery Unit after the election. DK

Promotion of the Model is now underway. The website contains information and an Order Form. DA will circulate the Order Form to all f40 Directors in first instance. DA

So far three authorities are understood to have purchased the Model, and others are considering doing so. All

JM at ERYC recently met Senior Manager Tim Priestley from the Audit Commission, who is working on the National Survey on Funding Changes. He was very complimentary about the Model, although this was not a formal Audit Commission view. All

The four authorities that worked with ERYC to trial the Model (Leicestershire, Solihull, Worcestershire and Staffordshire) are to be offered a copy free of charge as an acknowledgement of their contribution to its development. JM

Several members of f40 have suggested that the Group needs to make reference to 'headline figures' based on the Model. The Executive agreed that such headline figures had to come from each individual authority's use of the Model. This is the only way of making sense of headline figures, as all authorities are different. All

All f40 Directors of Education/finance Directors are asked to positively consider adopting the Model. All

All Directors/Portfolio Holders for Education to consider how they can promote the Model and the need for fairer funding for education to candidates in the forthcoming election. All

All Directors are asked to raise the existence of the Model and the upcoming national campaign, with Schools Forum chairs. All

9. Website
- The f40 website is now 'live' although development is continuing. The site now has the revised league table (2005/06) of education authorities funding position, plus the upcoming campaign. All
10. Membership/Finances/Subscriptions
- DA reported that he had invoiced all existing f40 authorities for 2005/06 subscriptions (£2k for most and £1k for Rutland). -
- Payments have started to arrive in f40's Derbyshire account. So far the following authorities have paid: Gloucestershire County Council, Cheshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Swindon Borough Council, Suffolk County Council, Warrington Borough Council, Kent County Council and North Yorkshire County Council.
- DA indicated that several authorities have indicated they will pay in April (in the new financial year).
- Executive members agreed to check if their own authority had not yet paid. All
- DA also indicated that he had written to Directors at other education authorities in the worst 40/50 part of the league to encourage them to consider taking up membership. There has been very limited response at this stage. All
- In 2005 the paid-up membership had been 28 authorities and it is hoped to increase that number during 2006. All
11. Derbyshire County Council
- A copy of a letter of thanks for financial assistance addressed to Cllr Alan Charles was circulated. All
12. Next Meeting
- Agreed that the f40 Executive should meet at Amerton Farm at 12.30pm on Saturday, 2nd July 2005.