



## **Notes of meeting of f40's Finance Managers Research Team**

**Tuesday 29 March 2016 at LG House, Westminster**

**Present:** Martin Wade (Cambridgeshire); Margaret Judd (Dorset CC); Anton Hodge (North Yorkshire CC); Peter Hughes (Stockport Council); Malcolm Green (Herefordshire Council); Simon Pleace (Kent CC); Andrew Minall (Hampshire CC); Gillian McKee (Oxfordshire CC); Amy Neild (Trafford Council) and Doug Allan, Secretary to f40.

**Apologies:** Karen Powlesland (Devon CC); Caroline Brand and Andy McHale (Worcestershire CC); Christine Atkinson (ERYC); John Holmes (Devon CC); William Wilkes (Staffordshire); Jean-Marie Long (West Sussex CC); John Huskinson (Buckinghamshire CC).

### **1. Notes of FMRT meeting held 27 January 2016**

The notes were agreed as an accurate record.

### **2. Drafting of 40's response to the School Funding consultation**

This meeting was called for the sole purpose of preparing initial draft submissions for the Schools and High Needs elements of the consultation.

The team had a range of early draft responses prepared by individual member authorities as a starting point, though the naturally an umbrella approach had to be adopted on behalf of the group's total membership.

By the end of the meeting the tasks had been virtually completed, with just a few minor areas needing further consideration and added details required that could only be added when access was available to other documents after the meeting.

#### **AGREED:**

- Margaret Judd and Doug Allan will endeavour to make the necessary adjustments to both responses by mid-day Wednesday 30 March. However, priority will be given to the Schools Funding response. If necessary, the High Needs response can be completed later.
- Doug Allan will circulate the Schools Funding response (and if ready, the High Needs response) to all members of f40 (FMRT, Executive, Chairs of Schools Forums, Directors, Lead Members and LS Finance Managers on the afternoon of Wednesday 30 March. He will emphasise that the responses are first drafts that inevitably will develop further as comments are received. He will seek comments by 5pm on Thursday 7 April.
- Doug Allan also to mention in his covering email to all members that a small team of f40 representatives will meet with the DfE on the afternoon of 7 April. This meeting is to discuss the final proposal for a national school funding formula that has been submitted to the DfE in March and to have the opportunity to discuss the details of the consultation with the School Funding team.
- Although it was recognised that the above timings are tight, it is hoped that all members will take the opportunity to comment of the f40 draft submissions and adopt key messages for their own individual submissions.
- Doug Allan to seek approval and sign off to both submissions from f40 Executive Committee by 12 noon on Wednesday 13 April.
- Doug Allan to circulate final version to all f40 members by 5pm on Wednesday, 13 April and arrange for it to be loaded on to f40's website.
- Doug Allan to submit the responses to the DfE on Thursday 14 April.

### **3. Assistance with preparation of Submission**

Doug Allan reported that former Somerset CC finance manager Susan Fielden, who has recently completed a two year stint at the DfE, might be available to assist the team on a consultancy basis, if required. **AGREED** that good progress has been made on the submission to Stage 1 of the consultation and that no additional support is required at this stage. However, the issue will be looked at again once Stage 2 is launched. At that point some additional research requirement may be valuable and it is possible that some number crunching will be required.

END/F40/DA/29 March 2016