



**f40 Executive Committee Meeting
Saturday, 20 May 2017 at Amerton Farm, Staffordshire**

1. Attendance and apologies

Present: Ivan Ould, Leics (Chair); Doug Allan, (Secretary); Margaret Judd, (Dorset CC); Gillian Hayward, (Gloucs Schools Forum); Bernadette Hunter, (Staffs Headteacher); Gillian Allcroft, (NGA); Sue Alexander, (Worcs CC).

Apologies:; Alex Chalk MP, (Vice Chair); Vernon Coaker MP, (Vice Chair): Zahir Mohammed (Bucks CC); Sally Bates, (Notts NAHT & Headteacher); Joe Jefferies, (NASUWT, Notts); Cllr Nick Bennett, East Sussex CC); Caroline Brand (Worcs CC); Jon Pearsall, (independent rep); Chris Chapman, (Cheshire governor rep); Stewart King, (Gloucs CC); Christine Atkinson, (ERYC); Edwina Grant, (LGA); Eunice Finney, (Staffs parent); Richard Soper, (Worcester Community Trust); Linda Piggott-Vijeh, (Somerset and Grant Davis, (Wiltshire CC).

2. Minutes of the meeting held 21 January 2017

The minutes of were approved as a correct record of the meeting. IO reminded members that he will be stepping down as Chair of the group in the Autumn of 2018 and that in due course consideration should be given to identifying a replacement chairman. DA also reminded the group that he plans to “retire” at the same time and that f40 and DTW would need to consider how the secretarial service is provided thereafter.

3. DTW fees

DA confirmed that following an email discussion via email in February 2017, Executive Committee members had agreed to an increase in the fees charged by DTW for secretarial and PR services. The increase was implemented from March 2017. **AGREED**

4. Activities since last Executive Committee – to be noted

4.1 MP’s Briefing in Parliament – 14 February 2017

IO said this had been a crucially important meeting attended by around 70 MPs or their assistants. There were many expressions of disapproval of the government’s NFF proposals and requests that f40 update their 2016 proposals.

4.2 Letter to the Prime Minister – 10 March 2017

Thirty-eight of f40’s then 41 member authorities signed a letter to the PM expressing extreme concern with the government’s NFF proposals and pointing out that there was a danger of replacing one injustice with another. We welcomed the fact that at last attention was being given to a new national funding formula but firmly stated that the proposals on the table were inadequate and would not remove the unfairness inherent in the system. IO received a short note back from the PM’s office stating that the letter had been forwarded to the DfE for a response from the Education Minister. DA stated that such a response had not so far been received. It was **AGREED** that DA should contact the DfE to query why a detailed response had not been sent.

4.3 Westminster Education Forum – conference on fair funding – 7 March 2017

FMRT member Andrew Minall, Head of Educational Financial Services at Hampshire CC represented f40 on a fair funding panel at this conference, which it is understood went very well and allowed f40 to successfully present its arguments.

4.4 NAHT Annual Conference – 29 April 2017

F40 Executive Committee member Sally Bates (who is also a fair funding spokesperson for the NAHT)

agreed to present f40's position at the union's AGM. SB joined a panel of four which was made up of Mary Bousted (General Secretary of ATL), Jack Dromey MP and Jo Yurky of the Fair Funding for All Schools campaign. The general thrust of the discussion was that NFF is needed but that it must be properly funded. Secretary of State Justine Greening MP was due to speak at the conference but pulled out using "purdah" as her reason for doing so.

DA reported that f40 had also been invited to speak at the Academies Show in London on the 26 April, but for some unknown reason our invitation was withdrawn at the last minute and the fair funding session was cancelled.

These items were **NOTED**.

5. National Fair Funding Formula Proposals

5.1 National School Funding Consultation Stage 2

DA reported that f40's submissions to both the Schools and High Needs elements of the consultation had been submitted in advance of the deadline on 22 March.

5.2 Meeting with Vice Chair – 27 March 2017

DA confirmed that along with MJ and Sian Dobson, the financial consultant taken on to assist with the group's formula development, had met with the Vice Chair in London to discuss the detailed proposals that were being developed.

5.3 Meeting with DfE – 10 April 2017

DA confirmed that MJ had attended a meeting with officials at the DfE to explain the work that was being undertaken on updating f40's proposals. A note of the meeting was circulated to Executive Committee and FMRT members. In essence, the DfE welcomes the fact that f40 is continuing to work closely with it on the formula and it is hoped that the good working relationship will continue, but were concerned about the f40 formula costing more than was available to spend

5.4 Meeting of FMRT – 20 April 2017

DA, MJ and Sian Dobson presented the detailed work undertaken on f40's original proposals (initially presented to the DfE in March 2016) and illustrated where and how the calculations had been updated. The basic figures are now based on September 2016 data for teaching and non-teaching staff, inflation at 2% in line with RPI, FSM split in to two parts as per NFF and containing all factors as used by DfE. There was a lengthy discussion about the underlying formula factor calculations (AWPU and Lump Sum) and agreement was reached on certain calculations made in the initial formula. It was agreed that the outcomes from the meeting would be addressed so that an updated formula could be presented to the Executive Committee on 20 May 2017. The revisions made to the formula reduced the quantum needed, but was still in excess of the quantum the DfE say is available.

5.5 Announcement of General Election

The announcement of the general election has had a significant impact on the ability of f40 to speak publicly about its proposals. As a local authority organisations f40 must follow the general rules of purdah. In addition, there are no MPs in place during the run up to an election, making it difficult to continue the private and public debate that had been going on until the announcement.

5.6 Party manifestos and fair funding

Extracts re school funding from manifestos announced by the three main parties were made available to members.

Conservatives (pages 51 and 52)

The way funding is distributed to schools in England is not fair. Across the country, children with the same needs and expectations receive markedly different rates of funding for their school place. We have begun to correct this and in the next parliament we will make funding fairer still. We appreciate that it is hard for schools receiving a higher level of funding to make cuts in order to pay for increases elsewhere, so while we will make funding fairer over the course of the parliament, we will

make sure that no school has its budget cut as a result of the new formula. We will increase the overall schools budget by £4 billion by 2022, representing more than a real terms increase for every year of the parliament. We will continue to protect the Pupil Premium to support those who need it. In order to fund these commitments, we have taken an important decision. We do not believe that giving school lunches to all children free of charge for the first three years of primary school – regardless of the income of their parents – is a sensible use of public money. There is now good evidence that school breakfasts are at least as effective in helping children to make progress in school. So under a new Conservative government, schools in England will offer a free school breakfast to every child in every year of primary school, while children from low-income families will continue to receive free school lunches throughout their years in primary and secondary education. The savings made from this change will be added to the core schools budget, meaning that every penny saved will go towards children’s education.

Labour: Schools (p37)

Investment – we will make sure schools are properly resourced by reversing the Conservatives’ cuts and ensuring that all schools have the resources they need. We will introduce a fairer funding formula that leaves no school worse off, while redressing the historical underfunding of certain schools. We will scrap the conservatives’ nonsensical plans for schools to pay the apprenticeship levy
Cost: 6.3bn increasing funding, including protection against losses from the new funding formula, free school meals (for all primary) and arts pupil premium.

We will bring funding for 16-18 year olds in line with Key Stage 4 baselines while ensuring the budget is distributed fairly between colleges and school sixth forms. Introduce an arts pupil premium to every primary school in England – a £160 million annual per year boost for schools to invest in projects that will support cultural activities for schools over the longer term.

Liberal Democrats - Put Children First (p26)

Schools in England are facing an unprecedented funding crisis, with rising pupil numbers and an inadequate financial settlement meaning the real-terms-per-pupil funding is being squeezed. At the same time the Conservatives’ flawed approach to the National Fair Funding Formula means some schools will lose out even more. Liberal Democrats believe every child deserves a high quality education, wherever they live. We will: Reverse all cuts to front line school and college budgets, protecting per pupil funding in real terms. Introduce a fairer national funding system with a protection for all schools, so that no school loses money. Protect the Pupil Premium which targets extra help at disadvantaged children. Over the parliament, this means nearly £7 billion more for school and college budgets.

Common themes:

- make sure that no school has its budget cut as a result of the new formula.
- introduce a fairer funding formula that leaves no school worse off
- protection for all schools, so that no school loses money

Comments

Members welcomed the fact that a new national funding formula is prominent in each of the manifestos but there was concern that commitments were unclear in terms of demanding fair funding. Any promise simply to protect school funding was worrying as that perpetuates the unfairness of the system.

MJ produced the following table to indicate the cost of funding the floor in the current government National Funding Formula (NFF) and compared it with extra cost associated with f40’s option (also see below in 5.7). This is funding that will be needed before any can be added as a result of a formula)

- NFF at -3%: £399m and at 0% (i.e. no loss to any school) £734m
- F40 Option 1 at -3%: £153m and at 0% £268m

There was some concern with the Conservative manifesto proposal that free school lunches will be scrapped and replaced by free breakfasts, as part of the plan to pay for additional school funding. No

figures have been provided to back up the policy, but schools will need extra resources to pay for the staffing from an earlier school start time, even if the cost of the meal is cheaper

5.7 f40 updated funding proposals and options

MJ presented the current updated proposal. It builds on the version presented to the DfE in March 2016 and is based on a 'bottom up' calculation of the costs of running a school in any part of the country. F40's formula proposals have been developed using the DfE's own datasets. It has been a very complicated process to achieve the results being presented, but the hard work has been well worthwhile and has resulted in effective modelling that is evidence-based and realistic.

F40's modelling requires additional funding of £456m for the first year and an end point of £2.063billion.

Table showing the impact of f40's Option

	Baseline (after academy adj)	NFF formula, no floor	%age to Baseline	NFF with MFG protection and capping	%age to Baseline	F40 formula, no floor	%age to Baseline	F40 with MFG protection and capping	%age to Baseline
F40 authorities	£ 11,500,458,968	£ 11,641,632,501	1.23%	£ 11,608,318,051	0.94%	£ 12,549,037,248	9.12%	£ 11,785,550,288	2.48%
Inner London Authorities	£ 2,977,815,523	£ 2,773,697,042	-6.85%	£ 2,952,509,629	-0.85%	£ 2,896,154,610	-2.74%	£ 2,973,313,300	-0.15%
Outer London Authorities	£ 2,452,981,543	£ 2,457,478,917	0.18%	£ 2,467,468,059	0.59%	£ 2,617,432,470	6.70%	£ 2,507,810,180	2.24%
Other authorities	£ 14,703,362,825	£ 14,643,100,546	-0.41%	£ 14,757,261,941	0.37%	£ 15,516,426,645	5.53%	£ 14,975,316,572	1.85%
	£ 31,634,618,859	£ 31,515,909,005	-0.38%	£ 31,785,557,680	0.48%	£ 33,579,050,972	6.15%	£ 32,241,990,341	1.92%
compared to baseline		£ 118,709,854		£ 150,938,821		£ 1,944,432,113		£ 607,371,482	
compared to NFF						£ 2,063,141,967		£ 456,432,661	

The committee considered the detailed construction of the modelling and agreed that the work had been very worthwhile and had resulted in modelling that we had anticipated the DfE itself ought to have undertaken to create an evidence base for a fresh look at school funding. It was acknowledged that the announcement of the election and the announcement of manifestos had complicated the process and purdah had created a hiatus in the way in which f40's funding formula proposals can be handled and presented. It was also acknowledged that we have no real detail about the government's intentions re the announcement of results from the NFF consultation. It had been anticipated that there would be an announcement mid-July, but it is now uncertain that this will happen and, indeed, it is uncertain whether the new formula proposals will be implemented as planned in 2018-19.

Members also agreed that it is uncertain what exactly the "extra" funding promised by each political party will actually be spent on. There is no guarantee that any would go directly towards making the funding formula fairer rather than simply ensuring that no school loses out, which may appease MPs, but would not necessarily address the underlying issue of their being insufficient funding in the system. Even with additional funding, f40 needs to be sure that the underlying formula for distribution is fair for the longer term. It was agreed that timing is of the essence for f40 and the following actions were **AGREED**:

1. DA and MJ (with assistance as necessary from Sian Dobson) should adjust the Proposals Paper to make it simpler to follow.
2. We will retain our existing proposal at this stage, but once there is more clarity of how the new government intends to allocate additional funding, we may adjust our approach to ensure the underlying formula is fair.
3. DA to make immediate arrangements to provide the adjusted Proposals Paper to the DfE and to organise a meeting with them. MJ, DA and, if available, IO, to attend.
4. Simultaneously, DA to provide the Proposals Paper to member authorities for their comments.
5. DA and MJ will make arrangements for a special briefing for f40 Vice Chair Alex Chalk presuming he is re-elected.

6. F40 will emphasise that it is still fighting for fair funding and although concerned about quantum of funding, the priority is to see a new fair funding formula introduced.
7. DA and MJ to consider how the complicated formula details can be presented in an easy to follow Briefing Paper that can be used generally to present f40's ideas to MPs (after the election is concluded) and to members, the public and media.

GH flagged the point that it is important that High Needs and Early Years issues are not overlooked in the push to get a new schools formula.

6. Television documentaries – requests for assistance

DA reported that two TV documentary producers have approached f40 for assistance with information that would help them produce programmes about school funding and the problems that headteachers are experiencing managing schools at a time of financial difficulty. DA indicated that he had circulated information about Label 1 TV who are planning a series for BBC 2 to all member authorities. The second approach arrived more recently and a similar response is intended. Members thought that it unlikely that many schools would want to open their doors to a TV production company but **AGREED** that it was appropriate to circulate information and leave it entirely to member authorities to decide how to respond.

7. Membership Report & Financial Update

DA reported that one existing member authority – Bedford Borough – has resigned and two authorities have joined the group – East Sussex CC and Cornwall CC. The total number of members is now 42. Subscriptions invoices for 2017-18 have been issued and over half of members have paid so far. A reminder was issued on 15 May and it is anticipated that all other payments will be collected within a few weeks. The group has a substantial balance in the bank.

8. Any Other Business

There were no issues raised.

9. Dates of future Executive Committees

DA asked if the planned meeting for 23 September 2017 could be altered as he would be unable to attend that day. IO and DA to liaise to agree an alternative date. It was also considered likely that an extra meeting might be required earlier than September to discuss any announcement made by the government. IO and DA to determine if an emergency meeting is necessary in due course.