



f40 Executive Committee Meeting
Saturday, 5 March 2016 at Amerton Farm, Staffordshire

1. Attendance and apologies

Present: Ivan Ould, Leics (Chair); Doug Allan, (Secretary); Joe Jefferies, NASUWT, Notts; Margaret Judd, (Dorset CC); Chris Chapman, (Cheshire governor rep); Zahir Mohammed (Bucks CC); Joe Tildersley (Solihull); Jon Pearsall, (independent rep); Sally Bates, (Notts NAHT & Headteacher); David Harty, (Cambs CC) and Richard Soper, (Worcester Community Trust).

Apologies: Graham Stuart MP for Beverley & Holderness (Vice Chair); Robin Walker MP for Worcester; Gillian Hayward, (Gloucs Schools Forum); Caroline Brand (Worcs CC); Bernadette Hunter, (Staffs Headteacher; Steph Simcox, (Worcs CC); Stewart King, (Gloucs CC); John Champion, (Worcs CC); Christine Atkinson, (ERYC); Gillian Allcroft, (NGA); Tony Norton, (North Lincs); Helen Donovan, (independent rep); Edwina Grant, (LGA); Eunice Finney, (Staffs parent).

The Chair welcomed Richard Soper to his first Executive C0ommittee meeting. RS advised that the Worcester Community Trust is a registered charity that manages seven community centres and is involved in the development of new and existing services to enable everyone in the city to get involved in activities and services for children, young people and the wider community. He is also Chair of Governors at Regency High School, Worcester. In due course he will be taking over Jon Pearsall's place on the Executive Committee.

2. New labour Vice Chair

Following the announcement at the last Executive Committee that Labour Vice Chair Nic Dakin MP had resigned due to his role as an education spokesman on the Opposition benches, DA announced that he had approached Chris Mathieson, MP for Chester, who had agreed to take on the role.

3. Minutes of the meeting held 5 December 2015

The minutes of were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

4. Activities since last Executive Committee to be noted

4.1 Politics First magazine

DA reported that he had organised for an advertorial featuring the current fair funding position to appear in the December 2015 edition. **NOTED**

4.2 The House magazine

DA reported that the Vice Chairman, Graham Stuart had contributed a fair funding article to the January 2016 edition and that on the authority of the Chair, he had purchased a half page advertisement at a cost of £883. **NOTED**

DA had also circulated copies of correspondence between Neil Carmichael and the Secretary of State for Education. **NOTED.**

4.3 NAHT

DA reported that in January 2016 NAHT had published a series of essays on fair funding. They had previously been circulated to all members of the Executive and thought to have been a very useful contribution to the debate on fair funding. SB said that NAHT has its own views but wished to present the views and opinions of other fair funding supporters as well as those of individuals and organisations with a different approach. **NOTED**

4.4 Capita Conference on Fair Funding – 26 January 2016

This was the first in a series of fair funding conferences in recent months. **NOTED**

4.5 Meeting with the NASUWT – 18 February 2016

DA reported that he, Margaret Judd and Martin Wade (FMRT members) had met Tim Cox, National Negotiator at the NASUWT to discuss fair funding and the potential for joint working. The trade union is supportive of the principle of fair funding and has issued a position statement to this effect. TC said that transition is a big issue for the union as massive turbulence will be created. He pondered on whether winners should win over a period of years, rather than immediately (just like losers lose over a number of years!). He also suggested that many headteachers are insufficiently prepared to deal with the changes coming through the system. DA intends to circulate a note about the meeting. **NOTED**

4.6 Meeting with Save the Children – 18 February 2016

DA reported on a meeting he, Margaret Judd and Martin Wade had also attended with two managers of Save the Children. The charity is interested in the forthcoming Fair Funding Consultation, particularly as it relates to Early Years. It is developing a policy approach on how children can be better prepared by proper early Years provision. It was interested in the background to f40's campaign and how Early Years fits into our proposals for a new national funding formula. The two sides had agreed to maintain links and share information as appropriate. **NOTED**

4.7 Westminster Education Forum – Fair Funding Conference – 3 March 2016

IO reported that he was a member of a panel that led a discussion on fair funding at this conference. MJ had also attended. IO said he had had an excellent opportunity to present the f40 approach to fair funding and that he felt the audience had generally been appreciative and supportive. He wished to have it noted that he was grateful for the pre-preparation and excellent PowerPoint presentation that MJ and DA had assisted with. DA to circulate the slides (including speaker's notes) to all Executive Committee members. **NOTED**

4.8 Westminster Briefing – Fair Funding Conferences – 1 and 23 March

DA reported that this series of conferences on fair funding were also underway. **NOTED**

4.9 Babcock Fair Funding Conference – 8 March 2016

DA reported that this conference, aimed particularly at finance managers in LA schools budgeting teams, will have Tony Foot, Director of the DfE's Education Funding Unit as the main speaker. As we still await the launch of the consultation it is unclear what approach Tony will take, but it is not thought likely that he will be able to take the consultation discussion forward in the absence of Ministerial announcement. There'll be a report back to the next Executive Committee. **NOTED**

4.10 Presentation to SW England Primary Headteachers – Taunton – 18 March 2016

DA reported that he had responded to a request for a presentation and that Executive Committee member, Gillian Hayward (Gloucestershire) and FMRT member, Andrew Minall (Hampshire) will jointly present. A Powerpoint presentation has been prepared to assist them. There'll be a report back to the next Executive Committee. **NOTED**

4.11 The Academies Show, ExCel, London – 20 April 2016

DA reported that the Chairman, IO, had been invited to speak about fair funding at this conference, but owing to other commitments he had had to refuse the invitation. Executive Committee member Gillian Hayward has agreed to take on the role. There'll be a report back to the next Executive Committee. **NOTED**

5. f40's Funding Formula Proposals

5.1 Meeting with Schools Funding Unit at DfE – 9 December 2015

DA had previously circulated a note of this meeting and it is available on f40's website. This was the fourth in a series of meetings to discuss the development of a new funding formula and to present f40's proposals. As usual the discussion was constructive and useful. The main issues raised were the Autumn Spending review, commitment to a new fair funding formula, consideration of "soft" and "hard" options re LA continued involvement in schools finance,

confirmation that £390m of extra funding is now baselined, importance of the consultation covering all three Blocks, LA statutory duties and role of Schools Forums, difficulties surrounding sparsity, ESG reduction and real-term protection for school funding and pupil premium. The team came away with a range of issues to consider. IO said that there continue to be considerable issues with High Needs and to a lesser extent with Early Years. It was anticipated that there won't be time or scope for a further meeting in advance of the fair funding consultation.

5.2 Meeting of Finance Managers Research Team – 27 January 2016

The minutes of the meeting had previously been circulated and are available on the website. DA said that this meeting had taken forward the proposals and the outcome is presented here for Executive consideration and approval. IO noted that FMRT had undertaken some excellent and invaluable work which had enabled the Executive to make real progress on proposals for a new funding formula. FMRT had helped establish real credibility with DfE officials. He asked for his and the committee's thanks it to be noted.

5.3 Latest Proposals – Narrative and Spreadsheet

MJ presented the latest versions of f40's Narrative and Spreadsheet. She pointed out that the following had changed since the last Executive Committee meeting:

- There's now only two scenarios – full and scaled
- Pupil numbers have been updated to 2015 – with pupil growth removed from calculations
- Sparsity - added based upon pupil density, with threshold of less than 60 pupils per km²
- Non recoupment academy funding and pupils added into all sums
- Model now requires £734.9m of new funding and Scaling is therefore 85.9%.

AGREED that DA will circulate the short presentation slides used at the meeting.

Discussion:

A question was asked about the new funding requirement and whether it was reasonable. IO said that it was reasonable as it is based on the fair funding principle. It is higher than originally anticipated but that should not prevent f40 from stating that that is the amount required.

A question was asked about whether all f40 member authorities would be gainers. MJ indicated that all would gain under the extra funding formula but that a few would be losers under the Scaled version. This is unavoidable and happens as a consequence of previous decisions taken by these LAs on the way in which they dealt with individual Blocks.

IO said that he understood a new Education Bill being prepared for the early summer would require all schools to apply for academy status, with the result that LAs would not be required in the funding allocation process.

JT asked about pupil premium and was reminded that it is not included in the funding formula, and that the government has consistently stated that it never will be. JT suggested that many Solihull headteachers believe that pupil premium has skewered finances...and had some unintended consequences on school budgets. Secondary headteachers in particular feel aggrieved at impact on their schools.

IO said that if the DfE was ever to change its mind about mainstreaming pupil premium, it would be very interesting to see how it could possibly work fairly. He flagged up some examples to demonstrate the gap between different authorities and suggested that pupil premium is widening the funding gap.

How the 'gap' between the highest and lowest funded LAs has grown

	1997/98 £	2012/13 £	2015/16* £
Highest	3,555	8,052	9,253.82
Lowest	2,073	4,429	4,732.19
Difference	1,482	3,623	4,521.63
% Difference	71%	81%	95%

ZM wondered what the impact of those figures would be on f40's new formula proposals. MJ said she could try and work it out (MJ subsequently provided the following information: Deprivation Pupil Premium is 2.221bn so if we were to mainstream that we could increase the deprivation element of our formula by £753 (compared to the PP values of £1320 prim and £835 secondary) and would strengthen the wording about pupil premium in the Narrative. **AGREED**

SB mentioned that her organisation had been approached by DfE for a quote in advance of consultation. She asked if f40 had received a similar request. The answer is that it hasn't. SB also suggested that it is looking increasingly likely that the hard option will be adopted and that LAs will be side-lined. **AGREED** that the text about LA's role should be beefed up.

In an email, GH asked why f40's proposals were not updated to take account of 2016 cost pressures. MJ explained that to do so would massively increase the amount of extra funding required and that such a move might not be advisable. The Executive Committee **AGREED**. (Subsequently MJ provided figures that suggest upgrading the on-costs and salaries to 2016 would need 2.16bn compared to the 734m f40 wants at present (that's equivalent to the whole pupil premium budget).

MJ spotted that a reference to sparsity in the appendix to the Narrative needs changing. **AGREED**

ACTIONS

- Narrative to be adjusted as discussed and then circulated to all Executive Members by Tuesday 8 March for final sign off. All Executive Members are encouraged to respond by Friday 11 March.
- Once Narrative approved, DA to circulate it and the Spreadsheet to all f40 member authorities for them to agree it. Circulate Monday 14 March with Friday 18 March deadline.
- DA to send Narrative and Spreadsheet to all f40 MPs on Monday 14 March.
- DA to correspond separately with Wigan and Wakefield to explain the scaled-back outcome.
- DA to give the Narrative and Spreadsheet to Tony Foot at the DfE once changes to Narrative completed. He will explain that this is f40's final proposal and that it will be used to inform f40's response to the consultation.
- The Narrative, but not the Spreadsheet will be added to f40's website in due course.

5.4 PR Strategy

DA had previously prepared and circulated a suggested PR Strategy. This now needs some minor updating. Subject to those changes, the strategy was **APPROVED** and can be circulated to the wider membership in due course.

6. Fair Funding Consultation

DA had previously circulated his thoughts on the likely start date for the consultation. NOTE: as these Minutes were being prepared the announcement of a consultation was made. There will be more on this in due course.

7 f40 National Conference

The idea of a national conference has been on the agenda for some time and again it was suggested that the idea be raised again at a future Executive meeting. **AGREED**.

8. Website refresh

DA reported that the refresh of the website was complete. Members thanked DTW for their work and **AGREED** that it should go live at the earliest opportunity.

9. Membership Report and Finances

DA reported that the group has 40 members. There was a discussion about subscriptions for 2016-17 and **AGREED** that subscriptions should again be set at £1,000, though this may have to be reviewed in the light of the consultation.

DA to provide a new list of LAs that ought to be in f40 so that he can make approaches to them.
AGREED

10. Any Other Business

CC said he was concerned that the timeframe for the fair funding consultation and subsequent implementation was extremely tight and would cause many difficulties for headteachers. IO agreed and said he hoped that the consultation would be launched soon (which it now has been).

RS asked if any consideration had been given to involving LEPs in the fair funding campaign as they are increasingly involved in education and schools. IO said that it was an interesting idea that should be looked at. **AGREED**

JP and DA reported on the publication of a fair funding paper by the Worcestershire Association of Governors (WAG). **NOTED**

IO mentioned that the Secretary, Doug Allan, has been invited to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 10 May. He was nominated by the Honours Team at the DfE. IO congratulated DA and suggested that it was a good reflection on the work of f40 as a whole. **NOTED**

11. Dates of future Executive Committees

The next meeting is scheduled for 11am on Saturday, 25 June 2016, though this may change depending on how the work on the fair funding consultation progresses.

Dates for the remainder of 2016 are 1 October and 10 December. Please note these dates in your diary.