

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Children and Adult Services
Learning and School Effectiveness
Children and Families

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness – Councillor Nick Bennett and the Lead Member for Children and Families – Councillor Colin Belsey on Monday 15 October 2012 at County Hall, Lewes

Councillors Barnes, Ensor, Field, Howson, St Pierre, S Shing, Simmons, Sparks, B Tidy MBE and S Tidy spoke on Item 4 (see minute 20)

17. REPORTS

17.1 A copy of the report referred to below is contained in the minute book.

18. MINUTES

18.1 Councillor Bennett approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 16 July 2012.

19. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

19.1 Councillor Simmons declared a personal interest in Item 4 as a governor of Heathfield Community College and Punnetts Town and Broad Oak Primary Schools but he did not consider this to be prejudicial.

19.2 Councillor Tidy declared a personal interest in Item 4 as a governor of Whitehill Primary School and Uckfield Community Technology College, but she did not consider this to be prejudicial.

19.3 Councillors Barnes and St Pierre declared personal interests in Item 4 as grandparents of children in the East Sussex education system, but they did not consider this to be prejudicial.

20. EAST SUSSEX SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

20.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which sought approval for changes to the East Sussex Schools Funding Formula. The Director of Children's Services provided an update that the Department for Education had confirmed that protection for those schools disadvantaged by the amendment to the Formula would continue for longer than the proposed two years. The Director also confirmed that the Schools Forum would continue to review the Formula through a working group.

20.2 Councillor Bennett set out that the DfE notification had been received on the day of the Lead Member meeting, and that the Schools Forum would continue to review the Formula to reduce turbulence and provide a balanced outcome. He also set out that he had met with DfE representatives to demonstrate the effects of the amended Formula, and that the department would work with the Local Government Association to support schools.

20.3 The Assistant Head of Service (Finance Projects) provided an update to the report and tabled Appendix D, a copy of which has been included in the Minute Book.

DECISION

20.4 RESOLVED to approve the changes to the East Sussex Schools Funding Formula, as set out in the Appendices to the report.

Reasons

20.5 The East Sussex School Funding Formula is compliant with the Department for Education's requirements for 2013-14. The Schools Forum and schools have been consulted on the proposed new formula and there were no comments on the factors set out in the formula document. The Department for Education has confirmed that protection for those schools disadvantaged by the new Formula would continue after the initial two year period. The Schools Forum has agreed to continue to review the Formula.