

## CUMBRIAN SCHOOLS FORUM – SCHOOL BUDGETS WORKING GROUP

**Notes of the meeting of the School Budgets Working Group held on Tuesday, 8 May 2007 at Newton Rigg, Penrith.**

**Present:** Jane Blacklock (Small Schools), Steven Bowditch (Special Schools), Clive Bush (Carlisle Secondary), Chris Clarke (South Lakeland Secondary), Chris Kirkup (Eden Secondary), Jennifer Marshall (Barrow Primary), Liz Moffatt (Barrow Secondary), David Nattrass (VA Primary Schools), Rod Rogers (Eden Primary and Chair of Group), Alan Rutter (Teachers' Associations), Bert Thomas (CE Diocese), Richard Waple (Bursar, Ulverston Victoria High), Anton Hodge (LA), Ashleigh Sutton (LA), and Nicola Shiels (LA).

### **1. School Funding Formula Review**

The School Budgets Working Group were undertaking a review of the school funding formula and the SEN, Access and Inclusion, Social Deprivation Working Group had been considering whether using free school meals to allocate social deprivation funding was the best method.

The Schools Forum would meet immediately after the School Budget Working Group to determine whether it was now appropriate to consult with schools on the revised formula.

The group had looked in detail at an activity based model. An alternative model had also been considered but this was at a much earlier stage and had had limited consideration. A number of illustrations of the models were circulated to the group to help them agree what to recommend to the full forum. Each of the examples showed that there would be winners and losers. The illustrations were discussed at length and the group were concerned that there was still work further work was still needed and it was too early to consult with schools.

The group were also concerned about how the formula review would fit with the school organisation work. There was a view that each process should be aware of the other. Philip Chappelhow agreed that he would feedback the comments and concerns that had been expressed to the schools organisation project.

It was therefore agreed that work on the models should continue. Cambridgeshire had recently adopted a new formula and officers were going to run that model for Cumbria. They would also continue to look at other LAs and make comparisons with Cumbria. The timetable for the formula review stated that schools would be consulted at this stage. As this was not now going to be possible, it was agreed that an update on the progress that had been made would be prepared and circulated to all schools. Officers were also asked to begin to look at the type of transition arrangements that

would made to help schools through the changes. It was felt that it would be helpful to look at this information alongside the modelling.

2. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of business.

3. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the School Budgets Working Group would be held on Monday, 11 June 2007. The meeting would be held at Newton Rigg, Penrith and would begin at 9.30am.

P&R/NJS  
May 2007