



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
**MERTHYR TUDFUL**  
**MERTHYR TYDFIL**  
County Borough Council

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**SCHOOLS BUDGET FORUM WORKING GROUP**  
**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023**  
**(Afon Taf High School)**

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**NOTES**

**PRESENT:** Stuart James (Afon Taf High)  
Sarah Hopkins (Blessed Carlo Acutis)  
Owen Morgan (Cyfarthfa Park Primary)  
Anthony Lewis (Head of School Planning, Support & Resources)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Kent (Education Accountant)  
Joanna Lewis (LMS Manager)  
Gary Winston (Clerk to the Forum)

No.	Discussion/Action
1.	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b> Apologies for absence were received from Ryan Morgan, Rhiannon Stephens Davies, David Anstee and Alwen Bowen.</p>
2.	<p><b><u>Vice-Chairperson</u></b> Stuart James was appointed Vice-Chairperson of the Working Group and chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chair.</p>
3.	<p><b><u>LRB Funding Update</u></b> AL presented a paper which covered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding currently provided to primary LRBs.</li><li>• Feedback from Heads on suggestions for the funding which needs to be considered.</li><li>• Appropriateness of the current funding model.</li><li>• Additional considerations.</li><li>• Funding currently provided to the secondary LRB.</li><li>• Feedback from Afon Taf on funding that needs to be considered.</li><li>• Appropriateness of current funding model.</li><li>• Additional considerations.</li><li>• Proposed way forward.</li><li>• Spreadsheet 1 - LRB Average v Actual Salaries</li><li>• Spreadsheet 2 - LSA funding.</li></ul> <p><b>SJ: It seems that there will be three schools losing due to the proposed changes, would it be possible to have a transition period to help those schools?</b> <b>AL:</b> It is something we have done before, and we could consider that.</p> <p><b>OM: If there is growth in the overall budget, will it come from the Local Authority or from the general school budget?</b></p>

No.	Discussion/Action
	<p>AL: If it is growth, it would be funded by the LA.</p> <p>AL: We are looking for agreement to move to the actual salary model in 23/24 and take a recommendation that the ALN Steering Group – LRB T&amp;F Group review LRB funding in line with the report.</p> <p><b>SJ: Have all schools been consulted in their views?</b></p> <p>AL: It has been difficult to get a detailed response to queries on costs from schools due to the current industrial action and the amount of work that would be involved but all schools advised where they considered their cost pressures to be.</p> <p><b>SJ: Would we be able to get the information on salaries and supply costs from the Payroll Department?</b></p> <p>AL: We have asked, but they would not have all the information such as who staffed the classes, supply costs for the class etc.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund actual teacher salary costs in 23/24</li> <li>• Continue to fund LSAs using the current model in 23/24.</li> <li>• Ask the ALN Steering Group/LRB Task and Finish Group to review the following during 23/24 and report back to the School Budget Forum for any further changes to be implemented from April 24: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Current funding levels for resources and supply cover.</li> <li>b) Whether new funding allocations are required for repairs to FF and E, car allowances, additional RRAs and other items if necessary.</li> <li>c) Current funding level for ALNCo. time in secondary LRB and new funding allocation for ALNCo. time in primary LRBs.</li> <li>d) Number of LSAs/HLTAs required to be funded through the formula for each class.</li> <li>e) Pupil capacity for each class.</li> <li>f) Level of AWPU funding provided for secondary LRB pupils when in mainstream.</li> <li>g) Number of secondary LRB classes to be funded.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4.	<p><b><u>SLA Annual Evaluation Framework</u></b></p> <p>Joanna Lewis outlined the current arrangements for evaluating the Service Level Agreements and presented four possible models that could be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option 1 - current model</li> <li>• Option 2 - scores as judgements</li> <li>• Option 3 - overall judgement only</li> <li>• Option 4 - no judgement</li> </ul> <p>SJ: I don't have any strong feelings but would probably prefer Model 3 where we just give an overall judgement.</p> <p>SH: I would agree, just an overall judgement would be less time consuming.</p> <p>AL: There is scope for a more fundamental review, but as we are currently in the middle of the three-year SLA Agreement it would probably be more appropriate to have a full review at that time.</p>

No.	Discussion/Action
	<p>JL: If there is support for a model which is a combination of model 3 and 4, we could prepare that.</p> <p>Following further discussion, it was agreed to recommend model 3 to the School Forum along with Option 4 and a new option 5 which would combine Options 3 and 4.</p>