

Agenda Item 02 – Appendix B - Officers' response to anonymous correspondence

Dear

Thank you for writing to inform me of your concerns about the process that was followed in support of the School's Forums decision making process relating to the Sensory impairment Service (SIS) and Specialist Support Services (SSS)

The purpose of the Forum is to bring together representatives of all schools, academies and early years providers across the area to consider key issues relating to education funding and finance. Where appropriate, this is supported by wider consultation with all stakeholders. This is undertaken in order to better inform discussion and the decision making process.

In this case, the issue for consideration was the way in which the SIS and SSS teams were to be funded in future, not how the service would be provided or if it should be redesigned or withdrawn. The need for, and benefit of, the services provided was recognised and I believe understood by all members of the Forum. In considering the options presented, members' focus was on creating a sustainable funding model that met the needs of all schools. The outcome of the consultation process was used to guide these considerations.

The Forum decision has now been enacted through the calculation and distribution of school's budgets. As such it is not possible at this time to revisit the outcome of the meeting. However, I understand your concerns about the members' understanding of the implications of this decision and how services will continue to meet pupils' needs. Therefore, I will ask that Council officers bring a report to the May meeting of Forum that addresses these issues for members' consideration. Should you wish to speak at this meeting to set out your concerns, please let me know.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Yours