

## Appendix 'I'

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Date 23 January 2014

Dear George,

### County Council Budget Implications for Schools

Thank you for attending the Schools Forum's Chairman's Working Group to discuss the school implications associated with the County Council budget decisions for the period 2014/15 to 2017/18. Thanks also to other officers who attended to contribute to our discussions.

As agreed at the meeting, I am writing to confirm the Forum's comments, as set out below.

The Forum:

- a) Welcomed the opportunity to comment on the implications of the County Council Budget proposals on schools;
- b) Acknowledged the unprecedented scale of the budget reductions facing the County Council;
- c) Accepted that the approach taken by the County Council would need to focus on statutory functions and those services that met County Council objectives;
- d) Recognised that the County Council's role in relation to Education continues to change as a result of changes in Government policy, which significantly reduce resources for "central education functions";
- e) Welcomed the continued commitment of the County Council to offer traded services to schools and academies in the future, which continue to provide choice and flexibility for schools;
- f) Noted that many other Authorities were no longer offering services to schools;
- g) Supported the approach of offering Lancashire traded services to schools outside the County to boost income generation;
- h) Encouraged the County Council develop and evolve new ways of working with all partners to best ensure the future viability of services;
- i) Commented that it remained important for traded services to offer high quality, good value services, so that schools and academies would continue to participate in large numbers, allowing economies of scale to remain;
- j) Emphasised that it was important for the County Council to take a balanced view when looking at areas where discretions are being removed, and encouraged the County Council to consider a range of options, for example, it was considered that on home to school transport parents may be willing to pay higher charges for the safety and security that accompanied County Council arranged provision;

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**Chairman John Davies**

C/O The Clerk to the Schools Forum, Pupil Places and Access, Room B44,  
PO Box 61, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ

- k) Noted that Budget proposals and associated arrangements were likely to have an equal impact across schools and academies in Lancashire;
- l) Welcomed the opportunity for future discussions on joint funding of shared priorities across school and County Council budgets;
- m) Welcomed the County Council's commitment to consult more widely in advance of proposals that specifically impacted on schools.

In connection with the specific proposals around School Crossing Patrols, to be introduced from September 2015, the Forum:

- a) Welcomed the County Council's continued commitment to contribute significant resources to a non-statutory service;
- b) Welcomed the opportunity to comment on the proposals;
- c) Acknowledged that this proposal must be viewed in the context of a range of County Council road safety initiatives, including 20 mph zones, many of which were targeted around schools and academies;
- d) Welcomed the additional flexibilities for schools that were built into the proposals, which could enable some schools that did not meet the previous criteria to access the service, albeit with a financial contribution;
- e) Supported the suggestion for certain crossing patrols that serviced multiple schools to be centrally funded; and for the possibility of a sliding scale being used to offer greater support to schools with more than one patrol;
- f) Backed the suggestion for further analysis to be undertaken to map the estimated cost implications for schools against school characteristics, for example small schools;
- g) Welcomed the intention to consult more widely with schools on the detail of the proposals and suggested the following communication channels:
  - Attendance at:
    - Primary Heads in Lancashire (Phil) Area meetings;
    - Lancashire Association of Secondary Schools Headteachers Executive (LASSH);
    - Lancashire Special School Headteachers association (LaSSHTA);
    - Nursery School Headteachers Federation;
    - District Chair of Governor Forums.
  - Written communications:
    - via the Schools Portal;
    - Governors Core Agenda item.

I should be grateful if our comments could be fed into the County Council Budget consultations.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Booth  
Vice-Chairman  
Lancashire Schools Forum