

# Minutes

## Newport Schools Forum

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Time: 3:30pm

Venue: Microsoft Teams

### 7. 24/25 Budget Proposals – Assistant Head of Finance

LAO provided an update on the budget proposals for 2024/25 for forum to discuss and make any suggestions, see attached.

FM asked if there was an increase of 1% to the NJC pension rate.

LAO confirmed there was a stepped increase in employers' rate and this would be included in the non-teachers' pay inflation figures.

FM stated that if the Post 16 funding remains at 2023/24 levels with no increase this in effect will be a real terms cut.

LAO advised that generally where grants are not cut or new policy, they tend to be flatlined which in effect are real terms cut.

LAO added that we haven't been made aware of the LA allocation yet but at an all-Wales level there had been no reduction to the overall level of funding. The LA are hoping to be able to provide an update shortly.

FM raised that in relation to the proposed reduction in the energy funding, this was not funded last year and asked whether this could be excluded in this years' proposals.

LAO stated its important to understand that last year whilst certain elements were identified as being funded/not funded, this provided a means of calculating the total cash investment to the ISB. Regardless of which elements were funded, the funding was directed via the funding formula to wherever it is needed in order of priority. Where the effect was seen, was across those areas that are based on an available budget ie capitation, resources examination fees etc.

FM acknowledged this but asked that if it possible to not include the energy reduction for schools that would be helpful although it was positive that inflationary cost pressures are included in future years.