

per trip) however they recover some of these costs from parents.

Considerations:

- If a centre closes there will be a need to look at the impact this is going to have on local schools and the community i.e.
 - what swimming pools will the schools access and will there be a capacity issue at these alternative centres
 - likely to be an increase in the time it takes to get to and from the centre if they have to travel further.
- If leisure centres charge for pool hire, schools may reduce usage of pool which has an impact on leisure services budget as they have to pick up the shortfall of each centre.

Rob Carlyle confirmed that funding was delegated some years ago to primary schools to cover the statutory responsibilities for securing. The funding is not ring-fenced. The funding was delegated at a value of £8.48 per pupil.

4.2. Impact of delegating funding on individual joint use sites

Peter Davis tabled a paper that gave a breakdown on the dedicated schools grant allocated to each individual joint use centre and the impact of the delegation of this funding across all schools, taking account of MFG.

In 2013-14 the joint use funding is £1.006m. This will be reduced to £0.834m for the proposed delegation to all schools. The reduction is caused by the removal of rates. The rates liability for the Joint use centres will now be included in the school rates total. This will protect the rates allocation from being delegated to all schools for the joint use centres.

Rob Carlyle went on to explain that, based on MFG reducing annually by 1.5% per pupil, the deficits in each joint use site will increase year on year until the MFG protection is eliminated.

Decisions of where the joint use centres are located are historic. In the medium to longer term the bigger picture would be that schools manage the centres themselves.

Jo Humphreys thanked Peter Davis and Alan Penton for all their work in producing the documentation as this will provide justification for any recommendation the group provide for Schools Forum.

5. Next areas of focus for officer work

Jo Humphreys summarised the main point for consideration:

- Need a clear picture of what the money is there for
- Principle of equity so either all schools pay pool hire or none of them pay
- Risks/impact of closing a centre down.

Gwyneth Evans clarified that the EFA have approved joint use funding as an exceptional formula factor and that this is likely to remain the case even with

the introduction of a national fair funding formula.

Leisure centres have had no capital investment for a number of years which has had a huge knock on effect on fabric and condition of the centres.

Proposed paper to outline the options available:

- Status quo
- Full delegation model
- Part delegation, part retention.

Officers to draw up proposal taking into consideration what has been discussed over the past 3 meetings and to circulate to group by Tuesday 21 January 2014. Group can then have a chance to comment or query anything prior to the meeting and proposed decisions can be determined at the meeting on 4 February 2014.

7. Any Other Business

No matters were raised.

8 Dates for Future meetings

Tuesday 4 February 2014 at 10.00am at STDC

The meeting closed at 11.30 am.