Full Council meeting
19 April 2017

Conservative amendment to Labour motion “Speaking with One United Voice on the Need for More Funding for All Kingston’s Mainstream Schools.”

Under “This Council notes:”

1. Delete bullet point 3 and replace with: “That this Council has a long history of understanding and responding to the needs of each and every school. That schools and Governors are best placed to take decisions over the running of schools and that over the past twenty years the role of local authorities in education has declined to the point where they have education responsibilities without the necessary power to deliver for Kingston.”
2. Bullet point 6, delete “This is divisive and unfair.”
3. Bullet point 6, amend final sentence to read “This Council has a responsibility to support schools to provide an excellent quality of education for every child and young person in our Borough.”
4. Insert new bullet point between bullet point 6 and 7 that reads: “A major contributor to the local schools funding issues has been the inexorable rise in the requirements of Special Needs pupils and the Education, Health and Care plans. This has led to significant overspends in the DSG that need to be reduced.”
5. Bullet point 8 (now 9) delete the words “mainstream schools” from the end of the first sentence and insert the word “education system”. Delete all the remainder of this bullet point from “The Government has plans to spend…”
6. Delete the final bullet point and replace with: “More Government money is needed to support our local schools and greater recognition given, in any new funding formula, of the costs of providing education in London.”

Under “The Council therefore resolves to:”

Add additional bullet points saying:

- “Ask Government to give consideration to the publication of regulations relating to the future role of Local Authorities in the education system,
- Review the current funding mechanisms on the provision of Education, Health and Care plans and its relationship to schools funding.”

Clean version of the amended motion below

“This Council notes:

- The Government is planning to introduce a National Funding Formula (NFF) to calculate and distribute the amount of core revenue funding that every mainstream
primary and secondary school will receive. This includes academies and free schools but not sixth forms.

- The government will unilaterally decide on the national factors it will use to determine each school’s funding allocation which hands the government almost complete control of the purse strings on our local education provision.
- That this Council has a long history of understanding and responding to the needs of each and every school. That schools and Governors are best placed to take decisions over the running of schools and that over the past twenty years the role of local authorities in education has declined to the point where they have education responsibilities without the necessary power to deliver for Kingston.
- We are not expected to know what the NFF will be until this summer but we do know that the government is planning a soft implementation for 2018/19 and a hard implementation for 2019/20.
- While the overall schools budget is protected in real terms until 2019/20 it does not provide for funding per pupil to increase in line with inflation. The Audit Commission reported in December 2016 that mainstream schools would need to find £3 billion in cost savings to cover increased cost pressures such as pay rises, increased pension and national insurance contributions and inflation.
- The DfE published illustrative figures for 2018/19 based on 2016/17 pupil data to give an idea of how the NFF might work and based on this information a number of our local schools would benefit but the majority of our primary schools will lose core funding. This Council has a responsibility to support schools to provide an excellent quality of education for every child and young person in our Borough.
- A major contributor to the local schools funding issues has been the inexorable rise in the requirements of Special Needs pupils and the Education, Health and Care plans. This has led to significant overspends in the DSG that need to be reduced.
- Its recent decision to reduce the schools’ ‘per pupil’ funding by nearly £28 to support the High Needs Block is not lost money and will be redistributed for the children who need that support. The Council has also identified savings of £400k with planned growth of £720k for 2017/18.
- More government money is needed to support our local mainstream schools.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- continue working with our two MPs, Chairs of Governors, head teachers and parent representatives in speaking with a united voice to ensure that all parents of school age children and young people, and the general public, are well informed about the unprecedented situation in education funding and the diminishing of local accountability,
- continue lobbying the Government with our above partners in any way possible, despite the formal consultation period having closed, to ensure that more money is put into our local schools—but not at the expense of other schools and school services, either locally or nationally.
- ask Government to give consideration to the publication of regulations relating to the future role of Local Authorities in the education system,
- review the current funding mechanisms on the provision of Education, Health and Care plans and its relationship to schools funding.
We are united in our determination that all our schools have a secure future in which they are able to continue to develop well-rounded citizens leading to productive and satisfying lives.