

SCHOOL GOVERNORS FORUM - MEETING HELD 16 FEBRUARY 2011

FEEDBACK – SERVICES TO SCHOOLS PRICE LIST

Listed below is a summary of the issues raised in relation to the Price List of services to be traded with schools. A copy of the Price List together with a list of Frequently Asked Questions based on the feedback at the Governors Forum will be posted on the Governors portal – link below.

<http://www.learning.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>

Impact on Teaching and Learning

Concerns were expressed regarding the potential for schools to have to balance the price increases of CBC's services with the cost of teaching (which will have an impact on resources for teaching and learning), especially for those schools running a deficit. This will adversely affect the Recovery Plan (St Andrews Lower School). It was also stated that a number of schools will go into a deficit as a result of these price increases.

Service Viability

Although firm assurances were given that 2011/12 prices would remain as published for 2011/12, there was some concern over the viability of this approach given prices were based on current volumes of service delivery. Governors were therefore concerned that services may be withdrawn completely as a result.

Efficiencies & Effectiveness

Governors sought assurance that CBC would continue to provide the same level of quality regarding service provision whilst at the same time seeking further efficiencies regarding the cost of said services. It was Governors opinion that the identification and implementation of further efficiencies throughout the Council should result in price reductions to schools without any adverse impact on quality.

Partnership Working

Governors sought assurance that the Council was exploring thoroughly partnership working with other public service organisations to achieve economies of scale and hence drive down costs (and charges).

Timescale

Significant concerns were expressed regarding the limited notification given to schools about the proposed price increases, which allowed insufficient time for them to benchmark these prices and seek alternative suppliers, if they so wished. There was a reluctant acceptance by most that schools would have to accept buy back this time but will look at alternatives in the future.