

## Aide Memoire: Briefing for meeting on Partnership Schools on 16 February 2015

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<b>Date:</b>	13 February 2015	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	910054
<b>Approved by:</b>	Graham Stoop	<b>DDI:</b>	[REDACTED]

### Authorisation Board's monitoring function

s 9(2)(a) OIA

The Authorisation Board (the Board) has a statutory role to provide advice on the approval of sponsors and the educational performance of Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua (Partnership Schools).

The Board and Ministry have worked together to develop broad parameters for the Board's performance monitoring and Ministry support. In February 2014 the Board agreed that the Ministry would provide it with specified metrics relating to:

- baseline data at beginning of each year by end of Q1
- student progress and achievement
- student engagement
- targeting priority learners by priority grouping
- financial and organisational wellbeing.

This is information that the schools are already required to report to the Ministry under their contracts. Future reports from the Ministry to the Board will include quantitative and qualitative analysis by the Ministry.

The Ministry has committed to providing information from any third party, such as ERO and external evaluators, to the Board in the quarter in which it is received by the Ministry.

s 9(2)(f)(iv) OIA

The Ministry's role is to monitor the contracts with sponsors on your behalf. ERO's evaluation in schools has two purposes – accountability and educational improvement. Evaluation for accountability purposes involves reporting on goals and standards (including checking on compliance matters), while an educational improvement focus involves assisting schools to develop and improve through their self review.

The Ministry is exploring opportunities to coordinate and streamline the various strands of monitoring and evaluation activity, to:

- minimise compliance costs for Partnership Schools
- avoid duplication
- process information efficiently
- produce concise and well-integrated progress reports and advice.

**Review of funding model**

We propose to undertake a full review of the Partnership Schools funding model with the proposed aim of ensuring that the model is efficient, effective and economic. This could include examining the principles on which the funding model is based; the individual components and how they are calculated; and mechanisms for cost increases. In particular, we propose to consider options for the property component and to examine whether the model is over- or double-funding in particular areas.

This work would be linked with the review of the funding system for learners aged 0-18 to ensure that the two pieces of work align and inform each other.

A proposed draft timetable is as follows:

<b>Review of Funding Model Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Policy work and consideration of implications of/for the review of the funding system for learners aged 0-18	Feb-June 2015	
Options paper for your consideration	Early July 2015	
Consultation with stakeholders	July-August 2015	
Finalise proposals and preparation of Cabinet paper	Sept-Oct 2015	Findings will feed into review of the funding system for learners aged 0-18
New Partnership Schools funding model in place	Oct 2015	

**Work programme to support the Under Secretary’s assignment letter**

The three main items in the assignment letter to the Under Secretary are:

- supporting the Authorisation Board
- developing a future funding model

- identifying and supporting highly successful sponsors to set up Partnership Schools

#### *Supporting the Authorisation Board*

The Board has asked for a secretariat comprising an administrative officer and senior policy advisor to provide independent administrative and policy support to the Board. This would enable the Board to:

- have more direct management of its day-to-day activities
- carry out its core functions more efficiently and effectively.

The Ministry is working to increase secretariat support for the Board from within existing resources, either through the deployment of permanent staff members or the recruitment of contractors to work directly to the Board.

The process we are proposing above to assist the Board to carry out its monitoring function is one way that we can contribute to support for the Board. We also propose to seek the Board's input on the next two phases of the independent evaluation being carried out by Martin Jenkins.

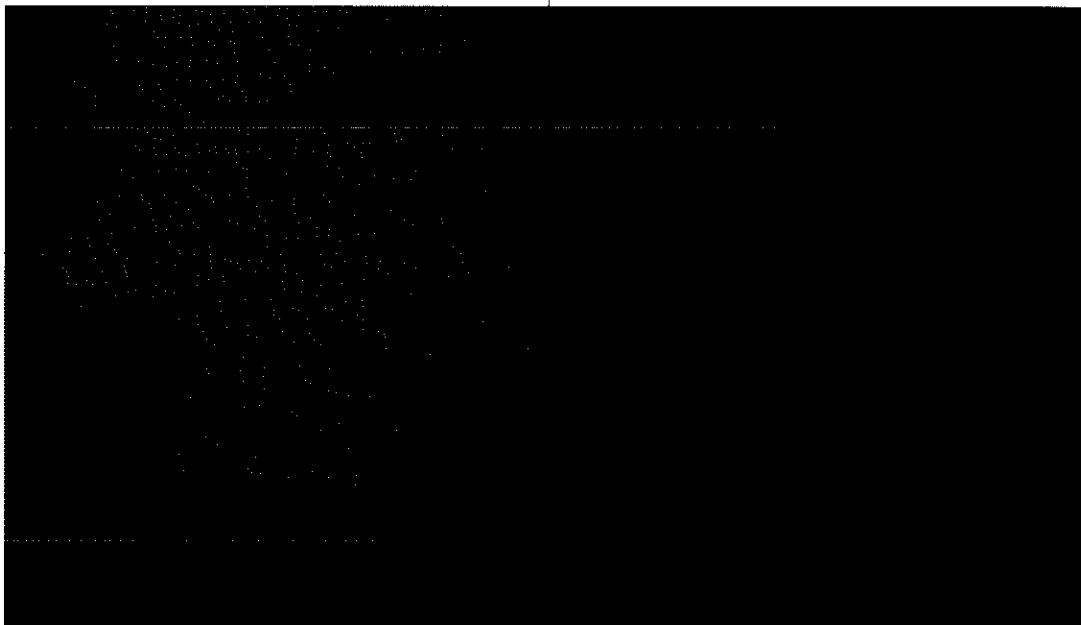
#### *Developing a future funding model*

We have outlined above the work we propose on the review of the Partnership Schools funding model. If you agree with this course of action, we will work with your office to develop a process to gain the Under-Secretary's input on the work as it progresses.

#### *Identifying and supporting highly successful sponsors to set up Partnership Schools*

Since the Ministry runs the application and selection processes for new Partnership Schools, it should not be actively involved in identifying and supporting potential sponsors.

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