

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2015 - July 2017

Issue and Decision	Schools Forum date	Schools Forum agenda item no.	School Forum Minute
<p>2014/15 Early Years Block Carry Forward</p> <p>Schools Forum noted that the Early Years DSG is currently forecast to be under-spent by £1,492,487 and approved the carry forward of this sum to ensure compliance with statutory duties through the spending outlined in Appendix A of the report.</p>	23/09/2015	4	424
<p>Centrally Retained Budgets Out Turn</p> <p>Schools Forum agreed that the 14-15 underspend of £60,010 in the Schools Block be carried forward into the Growth Fund in order to reduce the 16-17 budget topslice for growth.</p> <p>Schools Forum agreed that the Early Years block underspend 2014-15 of £6,597 should remain within Early Years.</p> <p>Schools Forum noted that the High Needs Block underspend will be used to fund expected growth in High Needs places and top ups in 2016-17 plus any outstanding prior commitments.</p> <p>For Cambridge Education underspend it was agreed that proposals would be brought to Schools Forum at the next meeting. It was noted that the Early Years element had already been agreed in item 4 of the agenda (above).</p>	23/09/2015	6	426
<p>School Improvement Underspend</p> <p>Schools Forum agreed to allocate £35,000 of these savings to support Our Lady of Peace Infant and Nursery School and Our Lady of Peace Junior School in amalgamating to establish an all-through primary school.</p> <p>Schools Forum agreed to allocate an initial £70,000 to support the Headteachers' collaborative request regarding Recruitment and Retention.</p> <p>Schools Forum did not agree to support the use of £200,000 of the School Improvement savings to contribute to the Council's funding of its contribution to the schools' PFI scheme.</p> <p>It was agreed that, following the allocations above, the remaining balance of the underspend would be considered at the next meeting alongside the</p>	23/09/2015	7	427
<p>Schools Forum Self Assessment Review and Updated Constitution</p> <p>Schools Forum supported the suggested changes in the self-assessment review (Appendix A).</p> <p>Schools Forum noted the updated Constitution (Appendix B) and commended this to the LA for approval.</p>	23/09/2015	8	428
<p>Review of Scheme for Financing Schools</p> <p>Schools Forum agreed two amendments to the Scheme for Financing Schools:</p> <p>Schools should make a register of business and other interests publicly available e.g. on a publicly accessible website (2.9 of Scheme)</p> <p>New wording to clarify borrowing by schools, for example, in relation to financial leases (3.6 of Scheme)</p> <p>Schools Forum requested that the wording of the proposed change regarding the revenue Balance Control Mechanism be clarified and brought to the next meeting (4.2 of Scheme).</p>	23/09/2015	9	429
<p>Minutes of previous meeting 23rd September 2015</p> <p>It was noted that the LA Democratic Services have confirmed that no further formal approval is required of the Schools Forum Constitution, following its approval by the Schools Forum at the 23rd September meeting.</p>	06/10/2015	3	439
<p>Schools and Early Years Finance regulations 2015 - DfE Consultation</p> <p>The LA is to respond to the DfE consultation and it was agreed that the response would be shared with the Chair and that Schools Forum would also respond. The Chair will circulate to members of the Forum for input.</p>	06/10/2015	4	440
<p>School Improvement Underspend</p>			

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2015 - July 2017

<p>Final decisions were made to allocate the remaining balance of the £308,000 2015/16 underspend in the centrally retained school improvement budget. Following allocations agreed at the 23rd September meeting - see above - to support teacher recruitment and Our Lady of Peace amalgamation, a further £13,000 was agreed to offset the £26,000 commitment of secondary Headteachers to recruitment research.</p> <p>It was agreed that the remaining £190,000 will be transferred to the High Needs Block to contribute to the easing of anticipated pressures on expenditure. From the final Cambridge Education School Improvement underspend for 2014-15 of £210,000, it was agreed to support the LA proposal for an allocation of £20,000 to fund a piece of work to scope out future school improvement options.</p> <p>Funding of £35,000 was also agreed for a project with Rising Stars focussed on boosting performance for Year 6 pupils, related to the new testing requirements.</p> <p>Further proposals for the remaining £155,000 balance will be brought to Schools Forum in December.</p>	06/10/2015	5	441
Minutes of previous meeting 6th October 2015			
<p>Item 439: Jon Reekie (Baylis Court MAT/Godolphin Infant), Eddie Neighbour (Upton Court) and Jo Matthews (Littledown) now elected as academy members and resignation of Hardeep Singh (Khalsa Primary) noted.</p> <p>Item 441: Confirmed that the £190,000 to be transferred to the High Needs Block was a one off transfer from under spend, not a permanent arrangement.</p>	09/12/2015	3	449
Growth Fund 2016			
<p>Agreed 2016-17 DSG top slice for Growth Fund, increased by £250k, to £1.1 million.</p> <p>Growth Fund criteria, to be brought to January Schools Forum; to include funding for permanent expansion, emergency bulge classes, additional places in primary school classes and secondary places above PAN where requested by LA.</p>	09/12/2015	6	452
Centrally Retained items Schools Block			
<p>Agreed £933k proposed for 2016-17 for Cambridge Education contractual school improvement work; balance of the £1.2m to be discussed at January Schools Forum. LA centrally retained budget of £230k agreed in part: Schools Forum (£53k) and CERA (£149k). Balance to be brought back to Schools Forum in January.</p>	09/12/2015	7	453
De-delegated items 2016-17			
<p>The de-delegation of the proposed budget for the behaviour support service (SEBDOS) was agreed by primary and secondary maintained schools. Trades Union budget de-delegation was deferred pending further clarification from the LA.</p>	09/12/2015	9	454
Review of SEBD Outreach Funding Methodology			
<p>Schools Forum supported the change in funding methodology proposed by SEBDOS.</p>	09/12/2015	8	455
Split site criteria review			
<p>The proposed revised split site criteria was agreed.</p>	09/12/2015	10	456
Minutes of previous meeting 9th December 2015			
<p>Membership: It was agreed that the terms of office of Maggie Waller, Phillip Gregory and Gillian Coffey were extended until August 2016, pending the next review of membership following academy conversions.</p>	12/01/2016	3	464
<p>£70k for supporting recruitment (previously agreed): the LA agreed that the funding should be transferred.</p>	12/01/2016	3	464
<p>De-delegation of Trades Union budget: it was agreed that the vote on the de-delegation of the Trades Union support budget would take place by email as soon as possible.</p>	12/01/2016	3	464
Funding Formula changes for 2016-17			
<p>Following the LA consultation regarding the Fair Funding formula budget for 2016-17, 3 options are to go to Cabinet on 18th January with the recommendation that the Council approves Option 3 (changes to AWPU and increase of lump sum).</p>	12/01/2016	4	465
Funding Formula 2016-17 IDACI consultation			
<p>Noted changes to IDACI notified by DfE in late December. Postcodes have been re-banded based on 2015 IMD figures rather than 2010, resulting in 50% of children in Slough no longer living in 'officially deprived' postcodes. LA has tried to keep same level of funding in deprivation factor which has led to changes: increasing the Free School Meal rate by 31%; using IDACI band 2 and increasing the band value 2 by 37% and band 3 to 5 by 36%.</p>	12/01/2016	5	466
2016/17 Budget Timetable			

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2015 - July 2017

DSG block allocation noted including £118.7 million for the Schools Block. Schools will receive budgets (5 to 16) and indicative early years and high needs budgets on 25th February 2016.	12/01/2016	6	467
School Improvement: Cambridge Education Centrally Retained underspend from 2014-15 and LA Centrally Retained budget for 2016/17			
Cambridge Education 2014-15 underspend confirmed at £232k and the following one off allocations agreed: £20k previously allocated to school improvement; £35k previously allocated for Rising Stars Maths booster programme; £70k for longer term KS2 Maths project in 5-7 schools; £35k to support LAC; £73k to be returned to schools on one off basis in 2016-17 via Schools Block. Centrally retained SBC Combined Budget for 2016-17 is £148,646, made up of £28,400 (school improvement and raising standards) and £120,246 previously within the Cambridge Education budget. £ 100,000 was agreed for the Virtual Head statutory function; £ 48,646 to support strengthening of safeguarding support was agreed in principle subject to provision of further detail at March Schools Forum meeting. Both are one-off as decisions can only be made annually by Schools Forum. The £190k previously agreed from the 2015/16 underspend for supporting the High Needs Block was re-affirmed; this is a permanent reduction in retained	12/01/2016	7	468
Centrally Retained DSG Items for Early Years 2016/17			
LA proposed similar level to 2015-16 for centrally retained DSG for Early Years for 2016/17. This was agreed.	12/01/2016	8	469
Growth Fund			
2016-17 Growth Fund confirmed as £1.1million to be funded from the Schools Block budget. Carry forward from 2015-16 estimated as £150k (total demand currently forecast at £1.25 million). List of criteria for Growth Fund to be brought back to the March Schools Forum meeting for formal agreement.	12/01/2016	9	470
LA Scheme for Financing Schools			
An updated Scheme for Financing Schools to be placed on SBC website in February 2016. Noted that previous LA proposal to amend the Balance Control Mechanism was withdrawn.	12/01/2016	10	471
Minutes of previous meeting 12th January 2016			
Noted that, following the January meeting, the de-delegation of the Trades Union budget had been agreed by email by relevant Schools Forum members.	08/03/2016	3	479
Cabinet had agreed the proposed Option 3 for the 5- 16 formula changes at its meeting on 18th January 2016.	08/03/2016	3	479
High Needs Block Proposal 2016/17			
Schools Forum was consulted on the High Needs Block and noted the total funding as £21.59 million.	08/03/2016	5	481
Early Years Budget 2016/17			
Schools Forum was consulted on the Early Years Block 2016/17: £11.367m including £150k for Early Years Pupil Premium for 3 and 4 year olds. The proposed sustainability factor was noted and it was agreed that the criteria would be amended to include a reference to education / early years' professional input when considering nursery schools for this funding.	08/03/2016	6	482
Update on DfE proposals for National Funding Formula			
DfE published a consultation on the proposed National Funding Formula : 7 March 2016 to 17 April. Schools Forum to draft response and schools to be encouraged to respond individually.	08/03/2016	7	483
Growth Fund			
The Growth Fund criteria for 2016/17, as set out in report, were approved.	08/03/2016	8	484
Children's Services Trust			
£47k funding for strengthening safeguarding training in schools, agreed in January 2016 in principle, was agreed pending further development and clarification of the details which would be discussed at SSEF and at phase groups. Options re LAC Pupil Premium also to go through phase groups for consultation.	08/03/2016	13	485
A.O.B. School Improvement Arrangements (centrally retained)			
Agreed that some of the centrally retained funding previously agreed by Schools Forum could be used by the LA to fund two days a week ongoing support for developing school improvement options.	08/03/2016	AOB / 13	490
Chair and Vice Chair			
Maggie Waller was re-elected as Chair and John Constable was re-elected as Vice-Chair.	14/06/2016	5	496
Growth Fund			

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2015 - July 2017

It was agreed that the £187k underspend from 2015 /16 could be carried forward into the Growth Fund 2016-17. It was noted that the 2016-17 Growth Fund is £1.287 million, including this carry forward and the current estimated demand is £1.169 million.	14/06/2016	7	498
Use of Centrally Retained DSG 2016 /17			
It was endorsed in principle that unspent funds from previously agreed centrally retained DSG, be used to support: Schools Portal; peer review/challenge in consultation with neighbouring LAs and (see also next item) school support fund for use by Slough Teaching Schools Alliance to promote school-to-school support, approximately £75k per year for two years.	14/06/2016	8	499
Slough Teaching School Alliance)			
In addition to the agreement above in respect of school to school support, Schools Forum endorsed the transfer of the Slough Learning Partnership's (SLP's) funding reserves (which includes some historic grants from DSG underspend) from SLP to the Slough Teaching School Alliance to fund staffing costs for two years.	14/06/2016	9	500
PFI Proposal			
The LA request to use £500k from the DSG Schools Block to fund the PFI affordability gap, currently paid by SBC, was not agreed.	14/06/2016	11	502
Membership Update			
Kathleen Higgins attending as an observer now that Beechwood is an academy	13/10/2016	4	511
PFI Proposal			
Clarification of factor and SBC contribution to affordability gap deferred to December	13/10/2016	5	510
High Needs Block			
Significant pressure on High Needs Block with overspend in range of 800k. Range of recovery options being considered by SBC	13/10/2016	7	514
PFI Update			
£500k PFI contribution raised by the new finance officer (section 151). It was flagged up that the council may need to make a further request for contribution from the DSG. Other savings will be explored across the council but if a further request is made a full consultation will be employed with schools.	06/12/2016	5	524
High Needs Block			
Overspend has been reduced to £300k at the current time. Figure can still fluctuate. Detailed recovery plan will be drafted.	06/12/2016	6	525
Centrally Retained			
Recommendation agreed to retain £723,598	06/12/2016	7	526
Education Support Grant			
School improvement and statutory services noted and Schools Forum agreed the transfer of the £430k from ESG to centrally retained. Total supported functions amount to £1.036 million. Includes bridging post between STSA and SBC	06/12/2016	8	527
De-delegated items			
Behaviour Support Services (SEBDOS) approved but 5k for trade union activity NOT approved	06/12/2016	10	529
Growth Fund 2017-18			
£900k centrally retained support for primary and secondary 2017/18 approved.	06/12/2016	11	530
Matters arising			
SBC will not seek any portion of 500k PFI affordability gap for 2017/18. May present new proposals for 2018-19 following full consultation.	10/01/2017	2	537
ESG de-delegation			
45k ESG de-delegation paper approved by maintained schools.	10/01/2017	3	538
Schools Block Budget			
SBC consulted on requesting one-off 300k top slice from High Needs Block. Slough losing money overall as a result of change to National Funding Formula. Schools Forum encourages all schools to respond to Phase 2 of the DfE NFF consultation which closes 22nd March and will share response from Schools Forum once complete at March meeting.	10/01/2017	4 and 5	539
Forum membership			
Updated membership in light of academy conversions meant deleting two vacancies from maintained schools and need to recruit two new academy members	10/01/2017	9	544
National Fair Funding Update			

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2015 - July 2017

DFE Stage 2 consultation: schools were encouraged to make individual responses (deadline 22nd March) in addition to collective Schools Forum response. https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/	09/02/2017	4	550
Growth Fund 2017-18			
2017-18 Growth Fund criteria agreed. Unit values were previously in line with 2015-16 AWPU values, but 2017-18 AWPU rates will now be used, with average of KS3 and KS4 for secondary. Agreed to fund numbers in bulge classes which open / fill after October census subject to costing and noted that Growth Fund criteria have to be confirmed by Schools Forum every year.	09/02/2017	6	552
High Needs Block			
Schools Forum consulted on draft High Needs Block and some outstanding clarifications pending. .	09/02/2017	7	553
Matters Arising			
A firm commitment was made by the LA to bring a detailed report to the October Schools Forum meeting to explain all PFI identified within the DSG, particularly relating to the Council's contribution and to the High Needs Block.	06/07/2017	3	562
Review of Scheme for Financing Schools			
A review will be completed over summer with consultation (maintained schools only) in September and proposals for any amendments to come to Schools Forum in October.	06/07/2017	4	563
Early Years Funding Formula			
The hourly rates for 2 year olds, and for 3 and 4 year olds have been implemented following consultation; consultation will be carried out with regard to 2018/19 formula; required to move to full implementation of universal base rate for 3 and 4 year olds by April 2019.	06/07/2017	6	565
Membership			
Vacancies in academy membership and extensions of terms of office of a number of members to be progressed with relevant groups: academy proprietors and Chairs of Governors as appropriate.	06/07/2017	7	566
High Needs Block Centrally Retained			
Centrally retained budget of £2.4 million: work in progress with savings of £100k identified to date; further review over the summer and detailed breakdown will be provided for October Schools Forum including all references to PFI in High Needs Block.	06/07/2017	8	567
High Needs Group Terms of Reference			
Terms of Reference for High Needs Group were endorsed.	06/07/2017	9	568