

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2012 to July 2014

Issue and Decision	Schools Forum date	Schools Forum agenda item no.
Fair Funding Formula Consultation for 2013 -14	12/09/2012	
Schools Forum agreed the content of the consultation with all schools regarding changes to the Fair Funding formula for 2013, with the principle that the aim in moving to the new formula arrangements is, within restrictions imposed by the DfE regulations, to minimise turbulence for individual schools	12/09/2012	6
Confirmation of DSG Allocation 2012 - 13		
Schools Forum acknowledged final DSG allocation 2012 - 13 and confirmed outline Schools Budget	12/09/2012	7
Headroom	12/09/2012	
Headroom to support the development of secondary school places		
Schools Forum agreed that the £30,000 allocated at the July 2012 meeting to support the development of secondary school places, be allocated equally across the three successful free school proposers in Slough whose bids were approved by the Prime Minister in July 2012	12/09/2012	8
Headroom to support the implementation in-year of new resource unit places from September 2012		
Schools Forum agreed that £376,000 be retained to support the implementation in-year of new resource unit places from September 2012	12/09/2012	8
Headroom - PRU activities at Littledown during 2012 - 13		
Schools Forum agreed that £70,000 be set aside but not allocated at this stage, to support PRU activities at Littledown during 2012 - 13, pending further work on the overall funding	12/09/2012	8
Fair Funding Formula Consultation for 2013 -14	03/10/2012	3
It was confirmed that, for formula purposes, Claycots is a split site school and therefore it was appropriate to consult on the option of a formula factor to reflect this.		
Headroom	03/10/2012	3
Schools Forum agreed that the £30,000 allocated at the July 2012 meeting to support the development of secondary school places and intended to be allocated equally across the three successful free school proposers in Slough whose bids were approved by the Prime Minister in July 2012 - be allocated at a later date when sites and intake clearer . LA to contact the three free school proposer groups.		
Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF)	03/10/2012	5
Schools Forum agreed a number of changes to the EYSFF:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional provider type 'Academy' at the same rates as the provider type 'primary'. • Provider specific lump sums as a short term position. • Hourly rates for supplements as a short term position. • Base hourly rates equivalent to current staffing rates for EYSFF MFG purposes. 		
Headroom		
Following update that the majority of the students of the three successful free schools will be from Slough and that the sites would not have an impact on intake, Schools Forum agreed to the £30,000 being held and kept under review.	24/10/2012	3
It was confirmed that the £70,000 for Littledown School was formally approved at the last SSEF meeting.	24/10/2012	3
Fair Funding Formula 2013 -14		
Schools Forum recommended the following proposals to the Council for approval:	24/10/2012	5
Not to include a factor for Looked after Children or English as an Additional Language as the DfE datasets do not target the real need in Slough appropriately and recommended that all the other relevant factors be included in the Slough formula.	24/10/2012	5

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Agreed to propose Appendix F and G of report to SBC with further discussion to follow amongst Secondary Headteachers re Appendix G which moves 1% of funding to basic entitlement from low attainment and has the effect of smoothing the distribution across non-selective and selective schools to the benefit of the selective schools (later endorsed by Secondary Headteachers 31/10/12)	24/10/2012	5
Agreed to distribute deprivation funding using 51% free school meals (Ever 6 FSM) and 49% IDACI.	24/10/2012	5
Agreed the recommended model for pupil mobility which maps the current turbulence factor to the compliant mobility factor.	24/10/2012	5
Agreed the standard lump sum factor.	24/10/2012	5
Agreed the split site factor – the final unit value to be confirmed by January 2013.	24/10/2012	5
Agreed the factor for rates and PFI. Current formula factors are replicated in the recommended model.	24/10/2012	5
De-delegation		
Maintained schools agreed de-delegation of Outreach (former behaviour support) for 2013/14 to support the planned transfer of the management of the service to Littledown and Haybrook from January 2013. Academies present indicated clear support for the service, indicating a willingness to buy in	24/10/2012	5
De-delegation of Trade Union staff costs was agreed for 2013/14.	24/10/2012	5
Growth Fund		
Schools Forum agreed to retain relevant central funding for significant pupil growth.	24/10/2012	5
Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF)		
Schools Forum endorsed the proposals put forward by the Task and Finish group: simplifying the formula by reducing it to 3 factors: 1) Staffing; 2) Central costs and 3) Deprivation with differentiation across different sizes of providers. These factors combine to provide an hourly rate. Deprivation to be based on IDACI and Free School Meals.	17/01/2013	5
Split site factor		
Schools Forum agreed that the split site factor criteria in the 5-16 main funding formula should be: “A split site is where a school operates on two (or more) distinctly separate sites. The sites will be in separate, not adjacent streets and not connected by a footpath”.	17/01/2013	6
Funding Formula 5 - 16 primary: secondary ratio		
No consensus was reached regarding the two options considered: the status quo of 1:1.43 and 1: 1.39. It was agreed that views of Primary Headteachers would be sought following the meeting and it would also be considered at SASH. If no formal agreement could be reached there would be a vote arranged for those Schools Forum members eligible to vote. The result of the vote would be communicated to the LA to inform the LA decision prior to submission to the DfE.	17/01/2013	6
<i>Note: A vote was later held regarding the two models proposed for primary / secondary ratio (1:1.43 and 1:1.39) and the Schools Forum vote did not provide a consensus with the vote being in favour of 1:1.43 (11 votes to 6). The final LA decision was to move to the ratio of 1:1.39.</i>	n/a	n/a
Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF)		
Deprivation to be based on Free School Meals	27/02/2013	3
Funding Formula 5 - 16		
It was agreed that further work to review the needs led principles behind the formula should be continued immediately with initial research being done to identify potential sources of expertise for the research, prior to any further financial modelling work.	27/02/2013	6
Schools Forum Constitution		
The updated Schools Forum Constitution was approved.	27/02/2013	8
Membership		

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One current vacancy in the maintained membership will not be filled (leaving 8 members). The Primary Headteachers group to elect 2 members to fill the maintained schools vacancies. Academy proprietors be asked to elect an additional academy representative (giving 8 academy members) and to consider this being a secondary governor representative to reflect phase balance. Nominations to be brought back to Schools Forum in May. Nicky Willis was approved as substitute for Barbara Clark and Gill Denham for Gillian Coffey	20/03/2013	5
Two Year Old Funding Formula		
It was agreed that the formula based on staffing and central costs as set out in the report be recommended to the LA for implementation.	08/05/2013	5
School specific contingency and LA budgets funded by DSG - Outturn 2012/13		
Schools Forum agreed that £780,000 be retained for potential overspend on High Needs and Early Years funding. Further areas to return to Schools Forum for later review and decision.	03/07/2013	4
Scheme for Financing Schools		
It was agreed that the updated Scheme for Financing Schools be put on the SBC website.	03/07/2013	7
Two Year Old Funding Formula		
Schools Forum agreed the revisions to the Early Years 2 Year Old Funding Formula as set out in the report and recommended the formula to the LA for implementation.	03/07/2013	9
Membership		
Paul Adams joined Schools Forum as an academy governor representative; one community primary vacancy has been filled by Navroop Mehat of Wexham Court Primary; a review of the balance of membership across academies and maintained schools to be undertaken by the Chair over the summer.	03/07/2013	12
Chair and Vice-Chair		
Maggie Waller was elected Chair and John Constable Vice-Chair	11/09/2013	1
School Balances		
It was agreed that if, at any time in the future, there is an option to claw back money from a school, this would come back to Schools Forum.	11/09/2013	6
New Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations - DfE Consultation		
It was agreed that a joint LA and Schools Forum response would be submitted to the DfE	11/09/2013	7
Membership		
It was agreed that the Chair would write to all Academies with a recommendation to fill the primary academy member vacancy to provide a balance of primary and secondary representation i.e. 4 primary and 4 secondary members and to recommend: the appointment of Jon Reekie as primary representative; agreement to the appointment of Nicky Willis to the next vacancy; to seek any alternative nomination	11/09/2013	8
It was agreed that the Chair would write to Chairs of Governors of maintained primary schools to seek nominations and Maggie Stacey would also raise this with primary Headteachers	11/09/2013	8
Membership		
Hardip Singh, Khalsa Primary School was appointed as a Governor Primary Representative for Maintained Schools.	16/10/2013	3
Julie O'Brien, Our Lady of Peace Junior School was endorsed as Primary Maintained School Headteachers' representative.		
DSG Centrally Retained Budgets		
Schools Forum agreed the need for a framework to be agreed for reporting to Schools Forum to enable any recommendations or decisions to be made regarding any relevant DSG centrally retained items. A process is to be built into the Work Programme.	16/10/2013	6
High Needs Financial Sustainability Policy		
Schools Forum endorsed the High Needs Financial Sustainability Policy, subject to a timeframe being added in to the criteria. It was noted that an annual report on the policy's operation should be provided for Schools Forum.	16/10/2013	7
Carbon Reduction		

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Schools Forum approved payment of £114,168.94 for the Carbon Reduction Commitment for 2012-13 via the potential in year DSG underspend for 2013-14.	16/10/2013	8
Membership		
Debbie Richards was welcomed as the new member representing maintained special schools.	15/11/2013	3
Jon Reekie was welcomed as academy primary representative and Ni ky Willis as reserve for next relevant academy vacancy.	15/11/2013	3
Repayment		
It was noted that St Joseph's has now repaid £400,000 to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	15/11/2013	3
Review of Accountability for Central Budgets		
The process for Schools Forum scrutiny and review of expenditure in centrally retained budgets was agreed: a report will be brought in July each year with the out turn figures and a brief explanation of spend and this will inform the Schools Forum decisions about the following year's budgets.	15/11/2013	7
Free Schools		
Schools Forum agreed that the £30,000 agreed to be allocated at the July 2012 meeting to support the development of secondary school free school applications now be allocated equally to The SASH School, Lynch Hill and Khlasa. It was noted that this was honouring an historical decision and did not set a precedent.	15/11/2013	3
Membership		
It was recommended that when the January review of membership is done, Helen Huntley be recommended to the Academies as a nomination for PRU / special school representation.	11/12/2013	3
Nicky Willis was approved as substitute for Gillian Coffey.	11/12/2013	3
Split Site Factor		
The Split Site Factor was agreed at a value of £34,300.	11/12/2013	5
Half Year DSG Forecast		
Schools Forum agreed that from the forecasted underspend of £871,000, £500,000 be allocated to 14/15 budgets (£400,000 to the Schools Block and £100,000 for the High Needs block).£300,000 from last year's unspent central DSG agreed to be added to the Schools Block for 14/15. Schools Forum also agreed that the previously reported Contingency figure of £708,293 from 2012-13 should be split: £567,293 to the schools block and £141,000 to the high needs block.	11/12/2013	6
Centrally Retained DSG		
Schools Forum agreed centrally retained budgets for 2014/15 but with some items requiring further clarification. A full list will be included in this log after the January meeting (included below - February 2014) .	11/12/2013	8
De-delegated Budgets: Behaviour Support Service and Trades Union		
The primary and secondary maintained school representatives present at the meeting voted to de-delegate both the Trades Union and Behaviour Support Services funding.	11/12/2013	9
2014-15 Budget Process Update		
Noted that Mobility Factor had been removed as agreed previously and funding has been added to social deprivation.		
Schools Forum agreed to endorse the recommendation regarding the unit values for the formula factors for 2014/15, noting that this moved the primary: secondary ratio to 1: 1.38 but registering concern about the impact.	15/01/2014	4
Schools Forum noted that the following amounts have been added to the 2014-15 Schools Block from previous years' underspends: £567,293 from the 2012-13 unspent contingency; £300,000 from the remaining 2012-13 DSG underspend and £400,000 from the estimated 2013-14 underspend.	15/01/2014	4
Growth Fund		
Schools Forum agreed to accept the recommendation to increase the Growth Fund by £1.2 million to £1.5 million for 2014/15 to enable funding to be provided for agreed permanent expansions after the first year. (Note: currently the Growth Fund criteria only allows support for agreed bulge classes and the first year of an agreed permanent expansion.)	15/01/2014	5
2014-15 DSG Blocks (Schools Block)		

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Schools Forum noted that £28,000 previously held to fund a KS3 Coordinator has been returned to schools' budgets; it was agreed that the £30,000 for Broadband maintenance be held for 2014/15 and included in the Cambridge Education Review of centrally held expenditure.	15/01/2014	6
Schools Forum noted the estimated Schools Block but subject to clarification of the funding from the Council relating to the PFI factor being confirmed. The Chair is to request clarification from the Council of the PFI figures implicit in the estimated Schools' Block figures and confirmation regarding the Council's contribution to the 'affordability gap'.	15/01/2014	6
2014-15 DSG Blocks (High Needs Block)		
Schools Forum noted a verbal update that the PFI figure in the report was updated to £309,000, having been £29,542 in the published papers.	15/01/2014	7
Schools Forum noted the estimated High Needs Block but subject to clarification of the overall funding from the Council relating to the PFI factor being confirmed. The Chair is to request clarification and confirmation from the Council regarding the Council's contribution to the 'affordability gap'.	15/01/2014	7
2014-15 DSG Blocks (Early Years Block)		
Schools Forum noted the estimated Early Years Block for 2014-15 and agreed the carry forward into 2014/15 for two year old funding. Schools Forum agreed two central expenditure items:£41,070 for Behaviour Support and £1,428 for Trades Union duties.	15/01/2014	8
DSG Centrally Held Budgets 2014-15 - starting position		
Update to this log bringing together all centrally retained budgets agreed by Schools Forum over December 2013 and January 2014 meetings		
High Needs Block	£	
Support for Inclusion		
F406 Inclusion Management	103600	
F166 Hard to Place Protocol	267000	
F430 Vulnerable Children	61700	
F417 Vulnerable Children	251770	
F191 Early Years Inclusion	70000	
F321 Roma Community Project	15200	
F235 Traveller' Service (DSG)	27400	
SEN Support Services		
F406 Inclusion Management	6340	
F446 Educ Resource Services (former LACES)	106780	
F410 Autism	185730	
F417 Sensory Impairment	470000	
F460 SENASS	399300	
F461 Retained SENASS	182000	
SEN Transport		
F413 SEN Transport	40000	
EOTAS		
F418 Haybrook Provision (EOTAS)	130995	
Schools Block		
F169 Admissions (DSG)	178180	
F840 Schools Forum	53055	
E903 Schools Apportionment (AN)	149100	
F322 Extended Schools Sustainability	335285	
F333 Raising Standards	576176	

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Schools Forum noted an update on PFI and gave its support to the LA participating as a DfE pilot LA. In noting the position regarding the affordability gap, the Forum made clear that there were no assumptions about the sources of that funding - no assumptions about implications for the DSG.	02/07/2014	4
Schools Outturn 2013-14 and 2014-15 Budget Plans		
It was agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair would write to the Secretary of State, DfE, EFA and local MP to raise concerns re dropping funding levels despite increasing pupil numbers, at a time when education funding is supposed to be 'ring-fenced'.	02/07/2014	5
Schools Forum members agreed that the two phase groups would discuss asking academies to share information about balances in the interest of overall transparency as this data is currently only available for maintained schools. This has the support of Schools Forum academy members.	02/07/2014	5
Central Outturn 2013 -14		
Agreed that business cases would be presented at the September meeting to enable decisions to be made about the use of underspend. Agreed that, if any of the underspend was later returned to school budgets, this should be distributed by pupil numbers.	02/07/2014	6
Revised Growth Fund		
Schools Forum agreed that the underspend of £375,940 be carried forward into the Growth Fund for 2015/16.	02/07/2014	7
Scheme for Financing Schools		
Schools Forum agreed to the amendments to the Scheme for Financing Schools as presented and to the updated Scheme for Financing Schools being put on the SBC website. .	02/07/2014	10