

Date of issue: 7th March 2016

MEETING:	SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM Maggie Waller (Chair), John Constable (Vice Chair), Virginia Barrett, Rachel Cartwright, Gillian Coffey, Sally Eaton, Philip Gregory, Kathleen Higgins, Helen Huntley, Jo Matthews, Paul McAteer, Navroop Mehat, Angela Mellish, Eddie Neighbour, Carol Pearce, Jon Reekie, Debbie Richards, Jo Rockall, Kate Webb and Nicky Willis
DATE AND TIME:	TUESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 2016 AT 8.00 AM
VENUE:	BEECHWOOD RESEARCH AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONG READINGS LANE, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE, SL2 1QE

AGENDA

PART I

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
1.	Apologies for absence.		
1.	Apologies		
2.	Declarations of Interest		

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary or other Pecuniary or non pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Section 3 paragraphs 3.25 – 3.27 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 3.28 of the Code.

The Chair will ask Members to confirm that they do not have a declarable interest.



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All Members making a declaration will be required to complete a Declaration of Interests at Meetings form detailing the nature of their interest.

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| 3. | Minutes of Previous Meeting | 1 - 8 | |
| 4. | Confirmation of when 2016-2017 indicative budgets will be adjusted to final budgets, where applicable. | 9 - 12 | |
| 5. | Annual consultation on the 2016-2017 High Needs Block budget including centrally retained items (SBC and Cambridge Education) | 13 - 18 | |
| 6. | Annual consultation on the 2016-2017 Early Years budget | 19 - 24 | |
| 7. | Update on 2016-2017 DFE proposals for National Funding Formula (verbal) | | |
| 8. | Growth Fund Criteria (for formal agreement - brought forward from January 2016 meeting) | 25 - 28 | |
| 9. | Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) update paper - work programme for maintained schools. | 29 - 32 | |
| 10. | Update from Task Groups: 5-16, SENSOG and Early Years (verbal) | | |
| 11. | Cambridge Education (verbal) | | |
| 12. | Academies update (verbal) | | |
| 13. | Strengthening safeguarding in schools (centrally retained Schools Block 2016/17) | | |
| 14. | 2015-16 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log | 33 - 40 | |

Press and Public

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Special facilities may be made available for disabled or non-English



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speaking persons. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

Minicom Number for the hard of hearing – (01753) 875030

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Slough Schools Forum- Meeting held on Tuesday, 12th January, 2016

- Present:** Maggie Waller, Holy Family Primary School (Chair)
John Constable, Langley Grammar School (Vice-Chair)
Sally Eaton, Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers - Early Years
Kathleen Higgins, Beechwood Secondary School
Helen Huntley, Haybrook College
Navroop Mehat, Wexham Court Primary School
Angela Mellish, St Bernard's Grammar School
Eddie Neighbour, Upton Court Grammar School
Jon Reekie, James Elliman Primary School
Debbie Richards, Arbour Vale School
Jo Rockall, Herschel Grammar School
Nicky Willis, Cippenham Primary School
- Observers:** David Harding (Langley Grammar School)
- Cambridge Education:** Robin Crofts
- Officers:** Rajpreet Johal (Clerk), Tony Madden, Coral Miller, Sharon Scott and Krutika Pau
- Apologies:** Virginia Barrett, Gillian Coffey, George Grant, Philip Gregory, Paul McAteer and Paul Wilson

PART I

462. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were noted from Gillian Coffey, Paul McAteer, Virginia Barrett, Paul Wilson, George Grant and Philip Gregory.

Maggie Waller thanked Rajpreet Johal as Clerk of Schools Forum as it is her last meeting.

463. Declarations of Interest

None.

464. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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George Grant to be added to the front sheet of last meeting as he was present.

Maggie Waller confirmed a meeting took place with Nicola Clemo, Chief Executive of the Slough Children's Services Trust and Nicola has been invited to the Early Years Group. No response received, Maggie to follow up.

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Membership: John Constable advised that the terms of office of three members of the Schools Forum have expired. All three members were asked to continue their membership until the end of August 2016. All three have indicated willingness to

continue until August 2016 pending the next review of membership following academy conversions; this extension was formally agreed.

Following a question about attendance at meetings of Schools Forum members, it was noted that the Constitution does refer to non-attendance. Maggie Waller to follow up any issues.

It was noted that Paul Wilson is leaving at the end of January. Krutika Pau has appointed a replacement.

Nicky Willis and John Constable updated regarding progress on the recruitment strategy project: £70k for supporting recruitment to be held by Slough Primary Headteachers' Association (SPHA) for both phases. Krutika Pau agreed that the funding should be transferred as soon as possible. Nicky Willis, Navroop Mehat and John Constable met with PR consultant, developing proposal for use of social media/other methods to develop/share key messages about Slough education and schools. John Constable noted that Dawn Bailey had attended a recruitment fair and made a number of useful contacts.

Robin Crofts referred to Education and Children's Scrutiny Committee and that members wished recruitment to be kept as a live issue, following their interest in recruitment to social care. A meeting of the Committee is due to take place on 9th March and is an opportunity to raise with members and promote education in Slough.

Noted that the transfer of £190,000 to the High Needs Block would need to be reaffirmed later in the meeting.

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School Funding Consultation: Paul Scaife from Tribal has been asked to provide raw data.

Page 4

The word 'ruining' at the top of the page should read 'running'.

Page 6

De-delegation of Trades Union budget: no further update was available but Robin Crofts agreed to follow up with Montem regarding the current situation. It was agreed that, once this was done, the vote on the de-delegation would take place by email as soon as possible to feed into the LA budget work and submission to the DfE.

Early Years group has not been rescheduled. Lead person to be agreed.

465. Funding Formula changes for 2016-17: SBC decision

Coral Miller reported that the report is to inform Schools Forum of the consultation results and the changes proposed by the Local Authority on the Fair Funding formula budget for 2016-17.

The 3 options outlined in the report are to go to Cabinet on 18th January with the recommendation that the Council approves Option 3.

Navroop Mehat noted concerns regarding the numbers outlined on Appendix A of the report. Coral Miller noted that the consultation figures were based on October 2014 and that the figures in Appendix A had been updated with October 2015 and the new IDACI changes. She reported that the Schools Block figure was higher than expected and the figure was not known before.

There was discussion about the information being presented to members. Maggie Waller raised her concerns that Cabinet members appear not to have been informed of the full impact on budgets nor advised of the Schools Forum response as neither is included in the Cabinet report. Schools Forum had been assured at the last meeting that members would be informed.

Krutika Pau confirmed that members would not have had more detail than was in the report and agreed to share this information with members before Monday's Cabinet meeting. Maggie Waller to send Krutika the Schools Forum response for Krutika to share.

Navroop Mehat noted that the responses provided in the report to members should have been weighted as they are heavily skewed to primary. Other members endorsed this, saying that the figures appear democratic but are not weighted in the report and this is significant.

It was noted that the two sums relating to PFI (each of £500k) are included in the figures which is misleading. It was agreed that these figures would be shown separately when budgets go out so that schools are clear.

It was noted, with concern, that figures for a number of schools, including Wexham Secondary, do not appear to be robust and a breakdown was requested. It was also stated that Wexham Secondary had a significant reduction in number on roll of 36 children from last year which contributed to the deduction. It was agreed that a breakdown would be provided as soon as possible.

466. Funding Formula 2016-17 IDACI consultation

Coral Miller presented the item to consult with Schools Forum on the changes in the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) banding made by the DfE and the local changes proposed by the LA as a result. The DfE changes affect the designation of Slough's banding in terms of deprivation. Coral noted that the IDACI information came late, on 17th December 2015.

She stated that many London boroughs have been hit. The LA is liaising with other Local Authorities to see how they are dealing with this.

Concern was raised that there had been limited time available to model the impact of the banding changes and to consult all schools on the IDACI changes therefore the Schools Forum was being consulted in line with other Local Authorities as there had been no time to provide and produce consultation papers for all schools.

It was confirmed that the banding changes have been set by the DfE but that the cash value of the factor is set locally.

The LA has modelled the changes whilst aiming to keep the total funding in the deprivation factor similar to last year. This was done by making the following

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%.

There was some discussion about ways of smoothing the impact and the need for the LA to be mindful of this overall in the context of other changes.

467. 2016-17 Budget Timetable - for information.

Coral Miller provided a report to Schools Forum to inform about the budget process for 2016/17 and the DSG block allocation, including £118.7 million for the Schools Block.

It was noted that, on 25th February 2016, schools will receive budgets (5 to 16), indicative early years and high needs budgets.

**468. School Improvement to include:
Cambridge Education Centrally Retained underspend from 2014-15 and the allocation of the Centrally Retained budget (held by the Local Authority) for 2016/17 (not approved in December 2015)**

Robin Crofts outlined the proposals as set out in the report and Appendix A:

It was proposed that the Cambridge Education centrally retained school improvement budget underspend from 2014-15 would support:

School improvement consultant exploring future options (already agreed by Schools Forum):	£ 20,000
Maths Booster Programme for Year 6 (already agreed by Schools Forum)	£ 35,000
Maths Project: Sustainability across the primary phase (KS2)	£ 70,000
Learning support for Looked After Children (LAC)	£ 35,000
To be returned to School Block budget for 2016-17 (one off allocation across all schools)	£72,994
Total	£ 232,994

In terms of the school improvement (£20k), Robin advised that Sharon Scott will be making contact with schools to get views. Sharon was later introduced at the meeting.

The maths sustainability project: 'Slough Mathematics Project Improving teacher subject knowledge and raising children's attainment' was a proposal from the Slough primary headteachers. It was noted that the maths booster programme (already agreed) is a booster programme focusing on the Year 6 pupils taking their end of Key Stage assessment in May 2016. The second programme is to achieve improvements across KS2 which are sustainable over time (details in Appendix B).

It was noted that the learning support for Looked After Children (LAC) is funding to be provided to the Trust as this is an ongoing requirement which has been in place in previous years.

The proposals were agreed and it is noted that these are one off allocations as the Schools Forum agrees these budgets line by line annually.

School Improvement activities provided by SBC: it was noted that the centrally retained SBC Combined Budget for 2016-17 is made up of £28,400 (school improvement and raising standards) and the £120,246 remainder (previously within the Cambridge Education budget – available as the Cambridge Education spend is reduced to approximately £930k), making a total of £148,646.

It was proposed that this combined budget would support:

Virtual Head statutory function	£ 100,000
Strengthening safeguarding across all Slough schools: support and training (to be shaped and determined with schools)	£ 48,646
Total	£ 148,646

Krutika Pau outlined the proposals.

It was asked if the Virtual Head was a Social Care function. Krutika said that the education element is not and, in many LAs, this is funded from the DSG. She explained that there has not been an established Virtual Head post. Debbie Rigby is currently fulfilling the role on an interim basis. The wish is to appoint a Virtual School Head who will be working in the Trust as the Council felt this was an opportunity to get this right for vulnerable children as part of the new Trust arrangements.

Jo Rockall referred to the £1,900 pupil premium available for each looked after child, only some of which is given to schools to support these children. Krutika said that it was not permissible to use that for funding this post, it is to support strategies and intervention.

There was some further discussion about the LAC pupil premium and Krutika indicated that she would ask Debbie Rigby to start some work to revisit this and this would be completed once the virtual school head was in post.

Helen Huntley noted that over 60% of Slough's looked after children are not educated in Slough.

Robin Crofts and two headteachers (Jane Girle and Helen Huntley) are on the governance group for the virtual school. It was agreed that this role would be accountable to Schools Forum related to this financial commitment and that a report would be brought back to the Forum, with clear KPIs, in the autumn term.

Schools Forum agreed to the funding for the Virtual School Head and it was noted that, even though this is a statutory function, the allocation can only be agreed by Schools Forum for one year.

With regard to the second proposal; 'Strengthening safeguarding across all Slough schools: support and training (to be shaped and determined with schools)', Krutika stated that this was to strengthen safeguarding, early help and intervention.

This funding for this was agreed in principle, subject to details being brought to the March Schools Forum meeting.

The £190k previously agreed from the 2015/16 underspend for supporting the High Needs Block was re-affirmed, with the understanding that this is a permanent reduction from centrally retained DSG in the Schools Block budget into the High Needs Block budget, not one off as previously thought.

469. Centrally Retained DSG Items for Early Years - for approval

Coral Miller presented the report and Appendix A which proposed a similar level to 2015-16 for centrally retained DSG for early years for 2016/17.

This was agreed by Schools Forum.

470. Growth Fund

Tony Madden went through two reports: one which was tabled at the meeting and one circulated previously.

One report was seeking approval from Schools Forum for a mechanism for funding additional school places over and above the existing Planned Admissions Number (PAN) of schools, when requested by Slough to meet Basic Need requirements (set out in paragraph 5.3 of the report).

The other report was to set out the overall requirement for the 2016/17 Growth Fund of £1.1 million and to seek approval to fund this from the Schools Block budget.

Tony Madden went through the process and reports.

The total demand is currently forecast at £1.25 million and it was noted that the likely carry forward from 2015-16 is estimated as £150k.

The Growth Fund will fund bulge classes, permanent expansion, and new places in excess of PAN in both primary and secondary (e.g. +2 per class in primary, places over PAN in secondary).

It was noted that where AWPU was the basis of funding, this would be based on 2015/16 values.

Academies taking additional pupils in 2016-17 are not funded for the summer term as the Growth Fund works on April-April financial year. This will need to be a first call on the 2017-18 Growth Fund allocation.

Schools Forum agreed to formalise the funding but also agreed that the criteria should be brought back to the March meeting for formal agreement and further updates are to be given in year on the Growth Fund.

471. Scheme of financing schools - finalising 2015-16

It was noted that two changes had previously been proposed and agreed in 2015. An additional change proposed at that time to the Balance Control Mechanism has now been withdrawn.

The updated scheme will be on the SBC website in February 2016.

472. Update from Task Groups: 5-16, SENSOG and Early Years (verbal)

Helen Huntley reported there are significant issues that need to be addressed by SENSOG to ensure that the revenue funding required is fully considered and agreed alongside capital projects. This will impact on the High Needs Block. Haybrook College's governing body is concerned about this.

473. Cambridge Education (verbal)

Robin Crofts reported that there are 8 months left of the CE contract. It is currently 'business as usual' including a priority focus on Children's Centres, early years and vulnerable groups. They are also preparing for an inspection of LA school improvement. In primary, KS2 is an issue and the aim is to get all maintained primary schools to good or better (currently 77% against national average of 85%).

They are starting to engage with the LA and the Trust regarding transfer of services over to the Trust or elsewhere. Children's Centres and SEN support, advice and training are likely to transfer to the Trust but this has not yet been finalised.

474. Academies Update (verbal)

There are a number of schools moving to academy status in the next 6 to 9 months. This would result in about 65% of schools as academies, with about 70% of pupils educated in academies. The next meeting with the Regional Schools Commissioner is in about 8 weeks' time.

475. 2015-16 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log

Noted.

476. Any Other Business

Nicky Willis reported a formal complaint which has been made by St Anthony's Primary School in a letter to Joseph Holmes in December. At the time of the Schools Forum meeting no response had been received. The letter referred to errors in finance issues by SBC e.g. in relation to bank accounts/statements and carry forwards. The Slough Primary Heads Association also echoed the concerns e.g. in relation to pension adjustments and explanations, an issue which has been raised previously at Schools Forum.

The School Bursars' group has also met with Paul Wilson.

Schools Forum raised concerns about these matters and requested a strategic response to both the Secondary Association of Secondary Headteachers (SASH) and the Slough Primary Heads' Association.

(Note: The Meeting opened at 8.15am and closed at 10.30am)

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SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
8th March 2016

Final School Budgets 2016-17

(Directorate of Wellbeing)

1.0 Background

The Council is required to notify schools of their budgets for the new financial year. Indicative budgets have already been distributed. This paper advises schools when they may expect the various elements for their final budgets for 2016 – 2017.

1.0 Maintained Schools

The draft budget was sent out to maintained schools on 24th February 2016. Schools are advised to note the following:

- 1.1.1 The Schools Block Budget** – This is now set and cannot be changed during the year. A request has been made for the detailed analysis of the Schools' Budget derived from the Authority Proforma Template (APT) which is being prepared and will be sent to schools within the next 2 weeks.
- 1.1.2 The Early Years Budget** - is an indicative budget which is based on the January 2016 census. This budget will be revised, when the Department for Education (DfE) verifies the information. This enables the DfE to confirm the final 2016-17 Early Years block budget. This has been scheduled for July 2016.
- 1.1.3 The High Needs Block Budget** - is also an indicative figure based on children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision as at January 2016. This will need to be updated for children in SEN provision from 1st April 2016. It is the Council's expectation that the Trust will have greater responsibilities around the High Needs Block funding and children with SEN in the near future. A further report on this will be presented to Schools Forum as soon as more details are finalised. However, it is not expected that the resources as allocated in the HNB will change as a result of this in the near future.
- 1.1.4 6th Form Funding** - is also an indicative budget. The DfE will confirm the numbers between March 2016 and April 2016. Shortly after this the Education Finance team will produce the relevant adjustments and notify schools.
- 1.1.5 Indicative Pupil Premium** – this is not the final budget. It will be adjusted in July 2016 when the Council receives the actual figures from the DfE. It is worth noting that last year the DfE made a further adjustment in October. It

is likely that this will be the same again for 2016- 2017.Schools will be informed if this does happen.

1.1.6 Other Grants – Any other grants that affect school budgets will be notified to the LA from the DfE in due course. Schools will be informed and their budgets adjusted accordingly.

1.1.7 Growth Fund – This will be allocated in September 2016.

1.2 Academies

The cash sheets with the budget breakdown have been submitted to the DfE and will be available from April 2016. However academies are advised to note the following:

1.2.1 School Block Budget has been set and the academies element of this budget has been transferred to the DfE.

1.2.2 However, academies should note that this is not the budget; the DfE is responsible for setting the budget for academies for the academic year September 2016 to August 2017.

1.2.3 Early Years and High Needs Blocks Budgets - As for the maintained schools above, the figures provided for both the Early Years and High Needs blocks are indicative and just like for the maintained schools these will be revised and final figures will be released later in the year.

1.2.4 Other grants which are payable to academies will be allocated directly to them by the EFA and the Growth Fund for academies will be paid in May and September

1.3 Priorities for the Education Finance team

The following are the priorities for the Council's Education Finance Team over the coming months:

1.3.1 Responding to schools' concerns – The Council is very aware schools have expressed real concerns about the quality of finance support. This is being taken very seriously. Over the coming months the following steps will be taken to hopefully improve the position:

- a) Meeting individually and collectively with Head Teachers to listen and act on their concerns. A meeting has already taken place with St. Anthony's

and a collective meeting with Headteachers is scheduled for early next month. This meeting will be attended by the Council's S151 Officer.

- b) Communication with schools by individual officers as well as school groups will be addressed to ensure these always meet with the best practice.
- c) We will be working harder to be proactive in identifying potential "trouble points" and do better to mitigate these.
- d) The finance team is being restructured to offer more resilience in the support available to the Education Team as well as to improve our chances to permanently recruit to the senior role.
- e) Working better with the Council's Education lead officers to provide greater strategic clarity to Council reports.

1.3.2 LA Government Statutory Returns – there are several returns that require completion by 31st March 2016. The most challenging of these returns is the Section 251. This will require significant cross working with other Council colleagues and will therefore be particularly challenging this year.

1.3.3 Schools Government Statutory Returns – we will be assisting maintained schools with their government statutory returns, especially Schools Financial Value Standard which also needs to be completed by 31st March 2016.

1.3.4 Payments – We will be ensuring all payments are made to Schools and Academies for this financial year which ends on 31st March 2016.

1.3.5 Closedown of accounts - The closedown timetable including the reports required from our maintained schools and nurseries will be sent out from 26th February 2016. The Council's auditors require this information in order to prove that schools are complying with their statutory duty. This year our staff will be on hand to offer some support for maintained schools on statutory returns and closedown issues to ensure schools are as compliant as possible.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Schools' Forum is asked to note this report.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is required to notify Schools of their annual budget

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

None

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer

6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

Access Implications

6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

Contact for further information

Coral Miller (Interim Principal Accountant, ECS)

(01753 477209)

coral.miller@slough.gov.uk

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
8th March 2016

High Needs Block 2016-17
(Directorate of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consult with the Schools' Forum on the proposed use of the High Needs Block budget for 2016-17.

1.1 Background

The rationale underpinning the allocation of budgets for the High Needs Block (HNB) for 2016-17 has not changed from last year. In addition no changes have been made to the centrally retained items.

There has been an increase in the HNB from the centrally retained section of the School Block. This was previously agreed by the School Forum in January 2016. This additional budget has been allocated for "top up" funding within the HNB.

The High Needs Budget for 2016-17 is £21.595m. This is made up of the DfE contribution of £20.906m, the Council's contribution to PFI of £309k and an additional £380k from the Schools' block budget

Please see Appendix A for a breakdown of the allocation and the Council's centrally retained items. Appendix B shows a detailed analysis of the centrally retained items which are managed by Cambridge Education.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Schools' Forum reviews the High Needs Block and gives a view on the budget allocation for 2016-17

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The DfE requires an annual consultation between the Local Authority and the Schools' Forum on the High Needs block budget. The local

authority is complying with its statutory duty to consult with the Schools' Forum to obtain their views.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Not applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5.1 The High Needs Block is one of three blocks within the Dedicated Schools Grant.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer

6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

Access Implications

6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

Contact for further information

Coral Miller (Interim Principal Accountant, ECS)
(01753 477209)

coral.miller@slough.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

Dedicated Schools Grant: High Needs Block 2016-17	
DESCRIPTION	£'000
Special Schools	8,670
Independent Schools	800
Resource and Special Units	3,431
Alternative Provision / PRU	724
Mainstream Schools	1,138
Contingency for growth	552
	15,315
<u>CENTRALLY RETAINED ITEMS</u>	
<u>Slough Borough Council</u> (The Council expects that the Trust will assume greater responsibility for this in the near future)	
Allocated to Arbour Vale school for speech and language.	252
Provides direct educational support for looked after children.	107
Mainstream support for pupils with sensory needs in schools.	470
Education Other Than At School at Haybrook Provision	131
Littledown Behavioural support	164
SEN support - Assessments, administration, finance, etc	237
	1,361
Cambridge Education - Centrally retained - See Appendix B	1,073
Non Controllable	149
Recoupment for Academies (includes Special school places, hospital places, resource bases)	3,698
TOTAL BUDGET	21,596
DSG 2016-17 Allocation in High needs block	20,906
Various (See Below)	690
	21,596
<u>Breakdown of the additional funding</u>	
Council contribution to Special School PFI	310
Agreed SF Sept 15 from School Bloc - 15-16	190
Agreed SF Jan 16 from DSG - 16-17	190
TOTAL	690

APPENDIX B

DSG-High Needs Block 2016-17			
Funding held by Cambridge Education (for passing to schools and delivering services to settings for children)			
Budget Code/Title	2015-16 Budget £	Description of the budget	Budget Manager
Support for Inclusion			
M166 Hard to Place Protocol	267,000	This is funding allocated to schools to support entry into school of those hard to place. This is a very useful arrangement to secure placements which are sustainable. The secondary Fair Access Protocol is currently under review with the primary to follow. This Protocol determines how funding is allocated to schools.	Tony Browne
M430 Vulnerable Children	61,700	Support for vulnerable groups (attendance, school refusers, teenage pregnancy, teenage parents, gypsies, travellers and Roma, young people with medical needs, young carers, weaknesses with social and emotional competencies, developmental and learning difficulties) and assisting with closing the gap between their achievement and that of their peers. Funding is available within the Integrated Support Service and School Services and Access for this purpose. This funding contributes to staffing costs across the team with a clear remit of focusing time and resources on these areas.	Tony Browne and Christine Edden
F191 Early Years Inclusion	70,000	Funding for Advisory Teachers to cover early years private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sectors in identification, assessment, intervention, prevention support and advice.	Rachel Cartwright
F321 and F235 Access to Education	42,600	This funding is predominantly for the School Access Officer who arranges education for hard to place and excluded pupils, including travellers, Roma, non-attenders, school refusers etc The Access Officer seeks to avoid the breakdown of pupil places in school, and acting as a broker to re-engage pupils at the same school or facilitate managed moves to other schools of parental preference. This funding also includes the monitoring and assessment of home education which is a statutory requirement, currently shared across the Attendance Team with commissioned support from a school.	Tony Browne

SEN Support Services			
M410 Support for children with autism	185,730	This funding covers the cost of team members to provide outreach information, advice, guidance, support and training to all Slough schools supporting the inclusion of children and young people with autism as indicated in the service level agreement.	Christine Edden
M460 Support for children with special educational needs	399,300	<p>To fund SEN specialist teachers and early years specialist support workers. This area is undergoing changes at the moment as it moves towards providing a consultant model of support and challenge to address educational standards and closing the achievement gap.</p> <p>M461 (62,300) is to provide support for children with learning difficulties and disabilities through the Children's Centres provision, including family support.</p> <p>M462 (118,000) is support, advice and training through the early years advisory service for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. These team members are engaged with assessment provision and also do home visiting.</p> <p>M460 (218,200) is support, advice and training for schools through advisory teachers. (This area of work is undergoing a period of transition from direct assessment and support for pupils in schools to a model which places greater emphasis on a strategic approach to SEND in schools. This will result in a reduction in the assessment of pupils and direct support, alongside an increase in strategic work around: identification, assessment, (early) intervention; advice; preventative work; professional development and training; systemic work: considering the profile, organisation and structure of SEND within the school; schools fulfilling statutory requirements around SEND, accessibility and equality issues; the place and status of SEND within the Senior Leadership Team; supporting governors understanding of SEND and fulfilling responsibilities around appropriate reporting on the school's website and reporting to parents; SEND developments within the school; and the inclusive culture, environment and practice.)</p>	Christine Edden/ Rachel Cartwright
SEN Transport			
M413 SEN Transport	46,340	To provide transport mainly for under 5s with substantial SEN to access specialist provision from an early stage of development. This is to give children a high quality early start in receiving special help to reduce greater difficulties during their development and a reduction in later costs.	Tony Browne

1,072,670

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SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
8th March 2016

Early Years Block budget - DSG 2016-17
(Directorate of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is to consult with the Schools' Forum about the allocation of the 2016-17 Early Years Block (EYB) budget.

2 BACKGROUND

The 2016-17 EYB has been prepared on the same basis as the previous year. The only exception to this is the introduction of a sustainability factor within the early years funding formula. Please see Appendix B for the justification for using a sustainability factor.

The introduction of the sustainability factor was not as a result of a comprehensive or strategic review, but rather a need to maintain the financial viability of some of the borough's Nursery Schools. This decision is to be viewed as a one off arrangement and it is supported by the Council's S151 Officer.

It has been acknowledge by the Council's S151 Officer that a strategic review is overdue for the whole of the Early Years provision and the block funding for Early Years, especially in light of recent government proposal to implement 30 hours free child care provision. Discussions about the government's proposal are taking place within the Council. As these discussions progress further reports will be brought to Schools' Forum and these will include how schools may assist in shaping this additional provision.

The Early Years block budget for 2016-17 is £11.367m which includes £150k for Early Years Pupil premium for 3 and 4 year olds. Please see Appendix A for a detail analysis of the new budget.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools' Forum reviews the Early Years Block Budget and gives a view on the budget allocation for 2016-17.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The DfE requires an annual consultation between the Local Authority and the Schools' Forum on the Early Years Block Budget. The Local

Authority is complying with its statutory duty to consult with the Schools' Forum and obtain their views.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative proposals were considered this time. A review of Early Years block funding is being considered and hopefully new proposals will be reviewed in the near future.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Not applicable.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer

6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

Access Implications

6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Not applicable.

Contact for further information

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APPENDIX A	
Early Year Block - Indicative budget for 2016-17	
Description	£'000
INCOME	
Provisional 16-17 budget from the DFE	9,835
2 year old provision	1,382
3 - 4 Pupil premium	150
INCOME	11,367
<u>REQUIREMENTS</u>	
<u>SBC</u>	
Primary and Nursery school	5,944
2 year old funding	323
Sustainability factor	175
	6,441
<u>Transfer to MM</u>	
E909 PVI ISB	2,698
2 year old funding	1,059
	3,757
<u>Centrally retained MM</u>	
E901 Nursery Growth (FSM Deprivation)	260
NEW Central Early Years Expenditure	132
	392
<u>SBC Centrally retained</u>	
NEW Nursery Growth	304
Funding sustainability reduce growth	-45
Additional required for Growth - Primary	300
NEW EY Behaviour Support Services	41
NEW EY Trade Union Duties	1
Central Early Years Expenditure	25
	627
Pupil Premium	150
TOTAL	11,367

APPENDIX B

Using the Sustainability Factor

Background:

The nursery schools in Slough are funded on an hourly rate per child basis. The funding follows the child; therefore the nursery schools budgets are adjusted according to the number of children who attend. Unlike schools who receive a lump sum and a business rate payment to assist with their fixed costs and have no adjustment to their budget according to the number of pupils on roll during the year.

Birmingham, Coventry, Hillingdon, Luton, Wolverhampton, Redbridge and Hounslow all provide their nurseries with a lump sum, and Bradford uses the sustainability factor already in the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF).

The Proposal:

Nursery Schools Sustainability Top-Up: is the funding which tops up the school to a minimum level of funding based on that school's specific circumstances. It takes into account a number of factors including premises, rates, insurance, base allocations and mainstreamed grants.

To meet the criteria of need:

- The school must allow access to 2 years of their financial records, including the reserves held.
- Demonstrate through written records that the reserves are being used to support the establishment so that the council is assured it is financially stable.
- Reserves held are 10% or less than the annual budget.
- The school is not in a position to raise income i.e. charge for services.
- Other options to balance the budget have been explored.

We have an aspiration to ensure that no school loses more than 5% of its funding year on year. A yearly review will be required to ensure big balances are not being built up with the nurseries.

Due to the way the EYSFF works, all nursery schools will receive some funding; the level of funding they will receive will be based on how many of the criteria have been met. If a nursery does not meet any of the criteria above, a nominal amount to satisfy the rules will be paid, £100 is the amount which is currently being used.

This payment will be funded from the Nursery Growth Fund. Therefore only significant growth will be considered for further funding and this will only be considered if the appropriate business plan shows that this growth has incurred additional costs over and above the minimum funding level (MFL).

The MFL is the amount determined by the local authority as the income required to meet the current spending obligation.

Justification

These are the reasons for introducing the Sustainability Factor:

1. As stated above nurseries have no specific funding for fixed costs, unlike schools.
2. Nurseries cannot convert to academies which attract additional funding or charge parents for their services.
3. There is a need for nursery provision in Slough; hence, the council should make all efforts to ensure that they are financially viable.

Private, Voluntary and Independent nurseries (PVI) are private companies. The Council's obligation to these schools is to passport the 15 hours free entitlement income to them. These institutions are able to and do charge parents for hours above the 15 hours free entitlement.

There is no reason why these criteria could not apply to PVIs. However if this was to be the case it would need to be funded from existing resources.

Consultation requirements

Financial issues relating to arrangements for early years provision require the Local Authority to consult with the Schools' Forum (SF) once a year (either in January or March). Schools' Forum can give a view. The DfE has no role in the decision, apart from arbitration where disagreements occur.

Senior Approval

This proposal is supported by the Section 151 Officer for 2016-17 and the council is committed to a strategic review of the Early Years provision in the near future which will involve and schools and will be used to shape future financial decisions.

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**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
8th March 2016**

**Growth Fund – Increased class size funding mechanism
(Directorate of Wellbeing)**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from Schools Forum for a mechanism for funding additional school places over and above the existing Planned Admissions Number (PAN) of schools, when requested by Slough to meet Basic Need requirements.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The recommendation is that the Growth Fund criteria described in section 5 is approved.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The proposed mechanism for funding pupils above PAN is based on the principle that costs to the Growth Fund should be minimised as this is a limited fund while ensuring that schools are adequately funded for the extra pupils they admit.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Initially the criteria for the Growth Fund was only applied to primary schools as this was where the need was but the funding is not phase specific and it was understood that it would eventually apply to secondary schools as the growth pressure worked its way through. There is now a pressure on places for Years 9, 10 and 11.
- 4.2 Initially, it was proposed that academies would not be funded for the period April to August unless pupils were recorded on the APT. To avoid underfunding and or schools refusing to admit pupils without appropriate funding, the mechanism provides funding to cover this period for academies.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 At a meeting on 12th January 2016 Schools Forum approved the provision of additional funding from the Growth fund for schools that admit pupils above their PAN at the request of Slough Borough

Council. Schools Forum requested that the details of the funding mechanism were brought back in March for formal approval.

5.2 The details of the funding mechanism are included below.

Funding Mechanism

Schools will receive Age Weighed Pupil Unit (AWPU) funding at 2015-16 level for 'the period' that they make each 'additional place' available at the request of Slough to meet basic need growth.

Additional Place – This is a school place that is over and above the PAN for that year group; it is also higher than the number of pupils in that year group as at the October Census for that academic year. This definition avoids double funding pupils, as schools will receive funding for the number on roll reported as part of this Census. Funding will only be provided for pupils in year groups Reception up to Year 11.

The Period - This will be agreed in units of whole terms as a minimum except in the first term which may already have started. This will allow revenue funding to be provided near the start of each term and avoid the need for claw back.

Agreement – The funding is not retrospective and will only apply where it is agreed by Slough that funding will be provided in advance.

5.3 **Academies**

There is an issue with funding of academies between April and August as the Education Funding Agency (EFA) funds academies from April to August in arrears. The time to claim this funding is January each year at budget build time via the APT. Any decisions to create places after this date cannot be recouped from the EFA. Therefore the Growth Fund will also fund this period for academies.

5.4 **Non-Academies**

As currently happens with bulge classes, the Growth Fund will support non-academy schools from September to March, thereafter funding is provided via the next School Census in October. This is because non-academies (maintained schools) are funded April to March.

5.5 **Affordability**

Currently there remains £203K available in the 2015-16 Growth Fund for funding further new places and a budget allocation of £1.25m agreed for 2016-17. The Growth Fund covers the period April to March, so creating larger classes at academies will entail a commitment of funding spanning 2 Growth Fund years. This

commitment would be subject to approval of the Growth Fund each year by Schools Forum.

On average each new place created via larger classes will cost:

- £265 for both academies and non-academies, per calendar month up to the end of March
- A further £1,325 for places at academies to fund the period April to August.

While places at non-academies will be preferred due to the lower cost to the Growth Fund, appropriate places may not always be available at maintained schools.

5.6 **Future Years**

The intention is that similar criteria for funding larger classes are included within the range of Growth Fund options each year, although the funding mechanism and criteria need to be reviewed and approved by Schools Forum annually to reflect other changes to schools' funding.

6 **ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 Local Authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential.

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

- 6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

Access Implications

- 6.3 There are no access implications.

7 **CONSULTATION**

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 School Organisation Group (SOG).

8 **Background Papers**

Report to Slough Schools Forum on 12th January 2016 “Growth Fund 2016-17 – Increased class size funding mechanism”

Contact for further information

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SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
8th March 2016

2016-17 Schools Financial Value Standard
(Directorate of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that maintained schools manage their financial affairs appropriately. The Council's Internal Auditors regularly check that the Council's plans for providing such assurance are adequate. The auditors' most recent report made recommendations for certain actions that the Council should carry out in order to safeguard its ability to give this assurance.
- 1.2 Schools' Forum is being informed of the internal audit action plan now being addressed by Slough Borough Council on Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) for maintained schools only.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that School Forum note the action plan below.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To comply with audit recommendations to ensure schools documentation is compliant with the DFE requirements on SFVS.

4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Process for Managing SVFS Returns in 2016

All maintained schools and nursery schools need to complete and provide (signed by the Governors) prescribed SFVS forms to Education Finance Team by Monday 21st March 2016. These returns are checked and any report that is non compliant will be returned to the school for adjustments. All reports that need adjustments must be returned to the Finance department by Tuesday 29th March 2016.

Any returns not received or still not compliant will be reported to the Section 151 officer who will inform the DFE as part of an incomplete return.

Internal Auditors Action Plan

The Council's internal auditors have made a number of recommendations for finance staff to implement. These actions, along with the work taken so far to implement the plan, are shown below:

SVFS INTERNAL AUDIT ACTION PLAN		
1	Obtain Missing SFVS Returns	These were obtained on September 15 th 2015.
2	Submission of the wrong form	This was due to the DFE changing the form after the March 2015 deadline. All schools to whom this applies have been advised to check the website towards the end of March 2016 and given the DFE link.
3	Insufficient commentary to evidence the basis of their responses	The Council's Education Finance Team visited all schools affected by this action at the end of January 2016 and early February 2016. The following steps were taken: 1) Provide the schools concerned with a copy of the audit report prior to the meetings. 2). Having one to one meetings with the author of the report, working through the report and ECS advising on how to provide/improve the necessary commentary, where applicable.
4	Business continuity plans - Standard 25	As per above on the school visits ECS identified why some schools did not meet the standard and offered advice on how to meet the standard. Some schools were meeting the standard but had not documented it i.e. financial cover, some schools had already arranged cover from another school etc. Some schools' business continuity plans are still a work in progress and may not be addressed in time for 15-16 audit. The interim Principal Accountant will review all the SFVS returns and support schools that have not submitted an action plan or time bound any assigned actions, so their returns comply

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Not Applicable

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Monitoring officer

6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

Access Implications

6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

Contact for further information

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George Grant
Departmental Finance Manager

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AGENDA ITEM 14

Slough Schools' Forum – 2015-16 Forward Agenda Plan

Tuesday 8th March 2016

No.	Description	Lead
1.	Confirmation of when 2016-17 indicative budgets will be adjusted to final budgets, where applicable, (information only)	Coral Miller
2.	Annual consultation on the 2016-17 High Needs Block budget including centrally retained items (SBC and Cambridge Education)	Coral Miller & Robin Crofts
3.	Annual consultation on the 2016-17 Early Years budget	Coral Miller
4.	Update on 17-18 DFE proposals for National Funding Formula (verbal)	Maggie Waller & John Constable
5.	Growth Fund Criteria (for formal agreement – brought forward from January 2016 meeting)	Tony Madden & Coral Miller
6.	Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) update paper – work programme for maintained schools.	Coral Miller
7.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, SENSOG and Early Years (verbal)	Maggie Waller
8.	Cambridge Education (verbal)	Robin Crofts
9.	Academies update (verbal)	Robin Crofts
10.	Strengthening safeguarding in schools (centrally retained Schools Block 2016/17)	Slough Children's Services Trust
11.	2015-16 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log	Maggie Waller

Wednesday 11th May 2016

Further agenda items to be confirmed

1.	Update on 17-18 DFE proposals and consultation for National Funding Formula	tbc
2.	SEND (content tbc)	tbc
3.	Growth Fund update	Tony Madden & Coral Miller
4.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, SENSOG and Early Years (verbal)	Maggie Waller
5.	Cambridge Education (verbal)	Robin Crofts
6.	Academies update (verbal)	Robin Crofts
7.	2015-16 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log	Maggie Waller

Wednesday 6th July 2016

No.	Description	Lead
1.	14/15 Update on 2-year block funding spend and carry forward if required.	Robin Crofts
2.	Update on 17-18 DFE proposals and consultation for National Funding Formula	Coral Miller
3.	Centrally retained out-turn reports 2015-16 (High Needs, Early Years and Schools Block) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC • Cambridge Education 	Coral Miller Robin Crofts
4.	Review of Scheme for Financing Schools (tbc)	Coral Miller
5.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, SENSOG and Early Years (verbal)	Maggie Waller

6.	2016-17 Forward Agenda Plan	Coral Miller & Maggie Waller
7.	Cambridge Education (verbal)	Robin Crofts
8.	Academies update (verbal)	Robin Crofts
9.	Key Decisions Log	Maggie Waller
10.	Dates and venues of next year's meetings	Coral Miller, Maggie Waller & clerk

Proposed meeting frequency for academic year 2016/2017

October 2016

December 2016

January 2017

March 2017

May 2017

July 2017

Brought forward / future items:

- Growth Fund updates in year
- Virtual School Head report with KPIs (autumn term meeting)
- Update on centrally retained spend and progress (October meeting)

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2014 and ongoing V3 January 2016 updated

Issue and Decision	Schools Forum date	Schools Forum agenda item no.	School Forum Minute
<p>Changes to Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations 2014 A number of changes were noted including: Schools Forum is now required to discuss places being commissioned by the LA and others in special schools, resource units and AP as well as arrangements for paying top ups; funding for each Alternative Provision place will increase from £8,000 to £10,000 per annum. It was agreed that a brief response to the consultation would be sent voicing concern about the overall funding pressures on the DSG and the impact on these overall on schools' budgets.</p>	17/09/2014	5	353
<p>Centrally Held DSG Underspend It was agreed that: £60,000 from 2013-14 DSG underspend be allocated to the Slough Learning Partnership to cover operating costs and contingency until the end of August 2015 and £100,000 be allocated to enable the Slough Learning Partnership to deliver a range of additional school improvement services during 2014-15. The proposals regarding allocation to the High Needs Block and Schools Block were deferred until the blocks are agreed at a future meeting.</p>	17/09/2014	6	354
<p>PFI It was noted that SBC had been accepted as one of only 4 LAs taking part in the DfE pilot to identify potential savings in PFI contracts.</p>	17/09/2014	8	351
<p>Schools Funding levels - letter to Secretary of State Members noted a response from David Laws MP to the letter sent to the Secretary of State.</p>	12/11/2014	3	361
<p>St Joseph's update An update was provided on the Schools Forum 2012 grant from headroom to support St Joseph's finance and development plan and financial stability over 3 to 5 years. It was noted that the school had been able to return £400,000 in 2013 and has utilised the remaining funding as was originally intended.</p>	12/11/2014	3	361
<p>Amendment to previous minutes It was noted that the reference in the previous minutes to the increase in value of an Alternative Provision place is an increase to 'base funding'.</p>	12/11/2014	3	361
<p>Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring It was agreed that a review of the Balance Control Mechanism would take place when the Schools Forum considers the Scheme for Financing Schools for 15/16.</p>	12/11/2014	4	362
<p>Budget process / formula Schools Forum agreed: the introduction of a 'reception uplift' in 2015/16; the introduction of capping at 3% in 2015/16 and that the existing formula factors should remain for 2015/16.</p>	12/11/2014	5	363
<p>Growth Fund 2015/16 Schools Forum agreed to create a Growth Fund for 2015/16. It was agreed that the fund should be based on full AWPU for the relevant part of the year for 2015/16.</p>	10/12/2014	6	374
<p>Centrally Retained DSG Underspend The principle of distributing the final underspend by numbers on roll was re-affirmed.</p>	10/12/2014	7	375
<p>De-delegated Budgets: SEBDOS (formerly known as the Behaviour Support Service) and Trades Union) With regard to the budget for SEBDOS (previously known as Behaviour Support), the relevant maintained schools' members of the Schools Forum voted to approve de-delegation in both phases at the unit costs proposed. Decision regarding de-delegation of the Trades Union budget was deferred until January 2015.</p>	10/12/2014	8	376
<p>Membership</p>			

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2014 and ongoing V3 January 2016 updated

Maggie Stacey had stood down from Schools Forum and thanks was given for her long service and valuable contributions. Schools Forum also thanked Mary Sparrow, who is leaving Slough, for her valuable contributions to the Forum. It was agreed that academy proprietors be asked to fill the three academy member vacancies and Schools Forum suggested a primary member and two secondary members in order to maintain an appropriate phase balance. A replacement maintained secondary school member is also to be found.	10/12/2014	9	377
Membership			
Angela Mellish (St Bernard's Grammar School) was welcomed to the Schools Forum as the new maintained secondary school member.	14/01/2015	1	382
Minutes of previous meeting 10th December 2014			
It was reported that confirmation had been given by the LA (Joseph Holmes) that no monies would be top-sliced from the DSG in future without a request to Schools Forum and its subsequent approval.	14/01/2015	3	384
It was noted that Louise Lund was no longer a member of Schools Forum as she is no longer in a PVI setting and therefore not eligible and that a replacement was being sought.	14/01/2015	3	384
Centrally Retained DSG Underspend			
Schools Forum agreed that the £998k underspend be redistributed to schools but not that the pensions deficit owed be netted off; schools to be notified of their pensions liability and billed separately from any underspend payment.	14/01/2015	5	386
Centrally Retained DSG 2015/16			
The centrally retained DSG 15/16 budget figure for Cambridge Education was agreed. Further detail is to be brought back to Schools Forum of the allocation of the individual strands of funding and the associated justification for spend. LA retained element: the bottom line figure of £241,034 was agreed. A report will be brought to the March Schools Forum of 14/15 anticipated spend and what the budgets are likely to be spent on in 2015/16. This will be a matter for final decision in March. The £241,034 to be held in reserve pending the further report in March.	14/01/2015	6	387
2015/16 Budget Process			
Schools Forum noted the 2015-16 formula factors and timetable (factors and budget pro-forma are predicated on the recommendations of the Schools Forum 5-16 formula Task and Finish group). To be submitted to the DfE following Council ratification.	14/01/2015	7	388
2015-16 DSG Schools Block and de-delegation of Trade Union support budget			
Schools Forum noted the Schools Block budget for 2015-16. De-delegation of Trade Union support: the 3 maintained primary schools' members present voted unanimously in favour of de-delegation at the current unit cost. Both secondary maintained schools members present voted in favour of de-delegation at the current unit cost.	14/01/2015	8	389
2015-16 DSG Blocks (High Needs Block)			
Schools Forum agreed to carry forward £600,000 from 2014/15.	14/01/2015	9	390
Membership			
Sally Eaton attended the meeting as an observer, with a view to taking on the role of member representing the PVIs. Maggie Waller thanked Jean Cameron for her valuable contributions and support to both the Schools Forum and the Early Years Task and Finish Group over many years as this was her last meeting. A new member to represent Children's Centres is being sought (<i>since meeting advised: Emma Slaughter, Interim Head of Children's Centres</i>).	25/03/2015	1	396
PFI			
It was noted that the £500,000 previously removed from the DSG in 2014/15 in respect of PFI had been returned and would be distributed to all schools and academies imminently. The £500,000 for 2015/16, removed in error, will also be returned.	25/03/2015	3	398
Commissioning of Places in Special Settings			

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2014 and ongoing V3 January 2016 updated

It was noted that an annual review of places should take place (report to Schools Forum)	25/03/2015	4	399
Early Years			
Schools Forum agreed the 2015/16 Early Years centrally held budgets and noted the summary of the Early Years block budget.2015/16 including forecast growth.	25/03/2015	6	401
Membership			
John Constable is to write to academy proprietors regarding the three membership vacancies, following a review of the January 2015 census.	25/03/2015	12	407
Membership			
New members, Emma Slaughter (new Children's Centres' member) and Sally Eaton (new PVI member), were welcomed to the meeting.	06/05/2015	1	408
Schools Forum suggested Eddie Neighbour and Jo Matthews as potential members for academy proprietors to consider.	06/05/2015	3	410
School Improvement Budget 2015-16 Update from Cambridge Education			
The revised funding for 15/16 was noted as £932,905 which is a reduction of £310k. It was agreed that Schools Forum, at the July meeting, will consider the business cases put forward and decide which of the the priorities identified will be funded from the £310k.	06/05/2015	4	411
PFI 2015/16			
It was noted that the £500,000 (part of SBC's PFI contribution for 15/16) that was not added to the DSG in 15/16 and given to schools would be returned to schools. Appendix A noted that the £500k will be part of the future budgets whatever decisions are made. Beverley Pennekett (EFA) advised that once schools have their budgets they cannot be re-determined in-year and if such an adjustment is required in-year to the Schools Budget an application can be made to the Minister to dis-apply this regulation. It was agreed that a joint letter would go from the LA and the Schools Forum seeking to re-distribute this year and to distribute based on numbers on roll .	06/05/2015	5	412
PFI School Improvement Savings			
Schools Forum was asked to consider using £200k of the savings identified in the centrally-retained budgets for School Improvement (minute 411 above) to contribute to SBC's funding of the School's PFI scheme in 2015-16. It was agreed that this proposal would come back to the Schools Forum meeting in July along with any other proposals (supported by a business case) for consideration and decision. Note the 2 PFI reports are both noted here as item 5 as one had been omitted from the agenda list.	06/05/2015	5	413
Growth Fund Out-Turn 2014 - 15			
Schools Forum agreed to carry forward an additional £88,000 to the Growth Fund for 2015 - 16. It was confirmed that the 2015 - 16 total Growth Fund was now approximately £1.25 million.	06/05/2015	6	414
High Needs Block			
Schools Forum noted the detail of the High Needs Block centrally retained budgets for SBC and Cambridge Education, as set out in the two appendices to the report.	06/05/2015	7	415
2014/15 EarlyYears Block Carry Forward			
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.	23/09/2015	4	424
Centrally Retained Budgets Out Turn			

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2014 and ongoing V3 January 2016 updated

<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
School Improvement Underspend			
<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 Cambridge Education underspend (see agenda item 6 above).</p>	23/09/2015	7	427
Schools Forum Self Assessment Review and Updated Constitution			
<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
Review of Scheme for Financing Schools			
<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
Minutes of previous meeting 23rd September 2015			
<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
Schools and Early Years Finance regulations 2015 - DfE Consultation			
<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
School Improvement Underspend			
<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.</p> <p>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

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Growth Fund 2016			
Agreed 2016-17 DSG top slice for Growth Fund, increased by £250k, to £1.1 million. 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.	09/12/2015	6	452
Centrally Retained items Schools Block			
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.	09/12/2015	7	453
De-delegated items 2016-17			
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.	09/12/2015	9	454
Review of SEBD Outreach Funding Methodology			
Schools Forum supported the change in funding methodology proposed by SEBDOS.	09/12/2015	8	455
Split site criteria review			
The proposed revised split site criteria was agreed.	09/12/2015	10	456
Minutes of previous meeting 9th December 2015			
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.	12/01/2016	3	464
£70k for supporting recruitment (previously agreed): the LA agreed that the funding should be transferred.	12/01/2016	3	464
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.	12/01/2016	3	464
Funding Formula changes for 2016-17			
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).	12/01/2016	4	465
Funding Formula 2016-17 IDACI consultation			
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%.	12/01/2016	5	466
2016/17 Budget Timetable			
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 DSG.	12/01/2016	7	468
Centrally Retained DSG Items for Early Years 2016/17			

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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