

## SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM

### **SCHOOLS GROUP:**

John Constable (Chair), Peter Collins, Philip Gregory, Valerie Harffey, Kathleen Higgins, Richard Kirkham, Jo Matthews, Navroop Mehat, Angela Mellish, Carol Pearce, Kathy Perry, Jon Reekie, Jo Rockall, Maggie Waller and Nicky Willis

### **OBSERVERS:**

Jamie Rockman, Eddie Neighbour, Neil Sykes and Councillor Shabnum Sadiq

### **LOCAL AUTHORITY:**

Domenico Barani, Cate Duffy, George Grant, Michael Jarrett, Johnny Kyriacou, Neil Wilcox, Susan Woodland and Vikram Hansrani

**DATE & TIME: TUESDAY, 4TH DECEMBER, 2018 AT 8.00AM FOR 8.15AM  
BEECHWOOD RESEARCH AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONG  
READINGS LANE, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE, SL2 1QE**

### AGENDA

### Page

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest

*The Chair will ask Members to confirm whether they have any declarable interests in relation to any item on the agenda.*

*All Members who believe they may have such an interest must declare it and may only:*

*(a) remain in the meeting while that matter is discussed at the discretion of the Chair or Vice Chair, and*

*(b) speak on the matter by invitation.*

*Examples of declarable interests include:*

*where the outcome of a discussion may provide a personal advantage or avoid disadvantage (pecuniary or non-pecuniary), or where the focus of an agenda item and the likely impact of any outcome is wholly or mainly on a school with which the Member is associated.*

3. Any Other Business

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 10 October 2018 **(Pages 1 - 8)**
5. Schools Forum Membership
6. Update on national funding/local funding issues
7. DSG Budget Monitoring Report 2018/19
8. Growth Fund 2019/20 **(Pages 9 - 20)**
9. DSG Budget 2019/20 **(Pages 21 - 32)**
10. Banding (High Needs top-up funding) Working Group update
11. Resource Base Update
12. Update from Task Groups: Early Years, High Needs & 5-16
13. Academies Update
14. 2018/19 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decision Log **(Pages 33 - 38)**

**Slough Schools Forum- Meeting held on Wednesday, 10th October, 2018**

**Present:** John Constable, Langley Grammar School (Chair)  
Peter Collins, Slough & Eton Church of England Business and Enterprise College  
Philip Gregory, Baylis Court Nursery School  
Valerie Harffey, Ryvers Primary School  
Kathleen Higgins, Beechwood Secondary School  
Jo Matthews, Littledown School  
Navroop Mehat, Wexham Court Primary School  
Angela Mellish, St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School  
Eddie Neighbour, Upton Court Grammar School  
Carol Pearce, Penn Wood Primary School  
Jon Reekie, Godolphin Infant School  
Jo Rockall, Herschel Grammar School  
Maggie Waller, Holy Family Primary School  
Nicky Willis, Cippenham Primary School

**Observers:** Jamie Rockman, Haybrook College  
Neil Sykes, Arbourvale School

**Officers:** Catherine Cochran, Domenico Barani, Susan Woodland and Vikram Hansrani

**Apologies:** Cate Duffy, George Grant, Michael Jarrett and Johnny Kyriacou

**No Apologies:** Richard Kirkham, Kathy Perry

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new academic year, including three observers: Jamie Rockman, Headteacher of Haybrook College; Neil Sykes, Principal of Arbour Vale School and Brenda Scott from the Orchard Hill College Academy Trust. All those present introduced themselves.

The Chair thanked Maggie Waller for offering to compile the 'Headlines summary' on this occasion.

**653. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cate Duffy, George Grant, Michael Jarrett and Johnny Kyriacou. No apologies had been received from Richard Kirkham or Kathy Perry.

It was noted that Navroop Mehat and Vikram Hansrani had advised they would be late arriving at the meeting and Carol Pearce had advised she would need to leave at 9.15am.

**654. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**655. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 5 July, 2018**

The minutes of the Schools Forum meeting held on 5 July, 2018 were agreed as an accurate record.

## **Matters Arising from those Minutes:**

**Minute 648 (Early Years Centrally Retained 2018-19) refers:** to date there had been no further discussion between Michael Jarrett and Jo Matthews with regards to the possibility of introducing a pay-as-used system for behaviour support.

Any other Matters Arising were covered by the agenda for the current meeting.

### **656. Schools Forum Membership/appointment of Vice Chair**

The meeting was informed that three terms of office were due to finish on 30 November 2018.

Jo Matthews, representing academy Special Schools/PRUs had agreed to continue for one further year, which the meeting supported.

Jon Reekie, academy governor representative from Phoenix Infant School and Eddie Neighbour, academy representative from Pioneer Education Trust had both expressed an interest in standing for a further term of office. In addition, members were informed that Gillian Coffey, academy representative from Lynch Hill School Primary Academy had tendered her resignation with immediate effect, creating a vacancy. The Clerk would draft a communication, inviting nominations or agreement of member appointments which would be sent to all local academy proprietors. It was intended that the new terms of office should commence prior to the next meeting of Schools Forum.

It was explained that one nomination for the role of Vice Chair of Slough Schools Forum had been received and members **APPROVED** the appointment of Nicky Willis for a term of two years.

The Chair thanked Nicky Willis for her support, adding that it was helpful for the Forum, and supported the roles of Chair and Vice Chair, to continue the secondary/primary balance in the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair.

### **657. Update on national funding issues/local funding issues**

Susan Woodland gave the meeting a verbal update, highlighting the Teachers' pay grant which had been confirmed for 2018/19 and 2019/20, with details available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-fund-pay-rise-for-teachers>

A member queried the teachers' pay grant; it appeared there was an expectation that 1% plus any top up would be funded by schools but it was not clear where the additional top up funding would come from. At the current time, it was understood this would be paid directly by central government.

Members' attention was also drawn to the announcement of the free school meals supplementary grant, with information available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-school-meals-supplementary-grant-2018-to-2019>

It was noted that the DfE was changing the way in which Local Authorities would receive funding for growth, moving away from an historical to a formulaic method. As yet, it was not known how these changes might affect Slough and the DfE was

expected to release further information during the current term. The growth funding had previously comprised of two funding streams but these had now been added together. It was understood there would still be an element of top slice to form the actual Growth Fund. The DfE was also still working on premises factors and were to strengthen rules on DSG and deficits, with an expectation that LAs would report on any school deficits of more than 1% with effect from March 2019.

A query was raised about the 'sugar tax grant'. It was understood this funding was made through Sports Premium payments, which secondary schools did not receive, and that any Voluntary Aided schools would have this funding included in their capital monies. Susan Woodland agreed to follow this up and the link is available here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/686163/Healthy\\_pupils\\_capital\\_fund\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/686163/Healthy_pupils_capital_fund_guidance.pdf)

### **8.30pm Vikram Hansrani joined the meeting**

It was queried whether PFI would now become clearer. Susan Woodland thought this might be the case as the way of formalising funding was being reviewed and it was understood workshops would be offered to support this work.

### **The meeting moved to item 9 on the agenda:**

#### **658. Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years**

The Early Years and High Needs Block groups had not met since the last Schools Forum meeting.

The 5-16 Task Group had met on Tuesday 9 October to discuss options for consultation with all schools on the budget share formula for 2019/20. There were a number of uncertainties around the National Funding Formula (NFF) which had been delayed until at least 2021/22. Two options had been presented: the first being to remain at 50% towards the NFF or the second to move 75% towards the NFF.

It was explained that a third option, to move 100% to NFF, had not been included as there were insufficient funds. This was due to the £900,000 top slice taken out of the DSG to support Growth Fund, which would lead to a shortfall of approximately £400,000 if the full NFF rates were applied. Originally, a 2-year period had been planned to move to full NFF rates but that timeline had now been extended and 75% seemed a sensible option to consider. It was stressed that the LA was not unique in top slicing for growth funding as few LAs had the necessary funds available.

The Task Group had considered both the 50% and 75% options sensible and had not expressed a preference as they did not know what the impact of other funding decisions would be on schools; it had been felt the issue should be reviewed at individual school level. It was queried whether members of the Forum should have expected the Task Group to make a firm decision on a preferred option, but it was explained the Group had wanted to find out how schools felt. It was further queried whether the exercise would be pointless as schools would opt for the most favourable option for themselves. The Group had agreed the consultation would allow schools to make individual comments.

The consultation would run from Monday 15 October 2018 until Monday 5 November 2018; a further meeting of the Task Group had been arranged for 13 November to consider the outcome prior to making a recommendation to the LA at the December Schools Forum meeting. The final outcome would be implemented when approved by the ESFA allowing indicative budgets to be made available in January 2019.

#### **8.40pm: Navroop Mehat arrived at the meeting**

A query was raised about NDR and it was explained that payment had to be made against actuals, and that the difference paid for rateable values of maintained schools had to be funded. It was pointed out that the Growth Fund was based on AWPU and agreed every year: it was suggested annual consideration should be given to the amount allocated. It was agreed this would be clearer when Tony Madden presented information about the Growth Fund to Schools Forum.

Members present at the meeting were encouraged to respond to the consultation, and to ask colleagues to do the same, whilst being mindful of other potential changes to their budgets e.g. post 16 and SEND.

#### **The meeting returned to the running order of the agenda:**

#### **659. Consultation Results on the Scheme for Financing Schools and Licensed Deficit scheme**

There had been only three responses to the Scheme for Financial Management consultation and it was queried whether a fair representation had been received. Those maintained schools that had responded to the consultation had shown a preference for the Cash Advance only option. It was requested that it be written into the Scheme that there was a need for Schools Forum to consider this on an annual basis and that there should be involvement in discussions from maintained school members. All maintained representatives agreed and Susan Woodland confirmed this would be included to support maintained schools' input in discussions.

It was noted there was the intention to increase budget monitoring in order to add more assurance against schools going into a deficit situation.

It was added that some further minor changes had been made to bring the Scheme in line with the DfE system.

It was asked whether Schools Forum would have oversight of any recovery plans, to ensure funding was being used appropriately, and that it would be useful for maintained Schools Forum members to be kept informed of any dialogue with the LA. It was felt awareness was needed, but there was no requirement for a formal report to be presented to Schools Forum. An update should be made at the next meeting of Schools Forum to highlight any amendments and to allow a regular update.

The inconsistent amount in paragraph 2.10.4 of the Scheme was queried and Susan Woodland explained that the £20,000 amount quoted had been a historical LA decision, whereas the DfE had quoted £15,000 minimum. It was suggested there might be further discussion about the £20,000 which could possibly be consulted upon. Under paragraph 2.10.2 there was a £60,000 limit which was as per the DfE scheme.

It was confirmed that, as per the document, if a primary school should go over the good practice balance threshold quoted of 5%, the total amount outstanding had to be explained through supporting evidence.

Schools Forum **APPROVED** the Scheme for Financing Schools, which included the licensed deficit scheme on a cash advance basis, allowing an advanced payment to be drawn on a school budget share and deductions made in later months to enable time for the budget deficit to be addressed by the school.

#### **660. SEND commissioning of SEN & AP Places**

Vikram Hansrani provided details of commissioned SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) places for academies for 2019/20. It was added that this detail had been used to provide information to the ESFA.

Increases in places at Arbour Vale from 290 to 304 and Ditton Park Academy from 8 to 12 places had been included. Following discussion with Foxborough Primary School there had been a reduction in their places from 8 to 4 and there had been an amendment to the designation at St Ethelbert's Primary School to include ASD. Vikram Hansrani explained there was a move away from the term 'complex need'. It was noted that there would be increases for Littledown and Haybrook over two years, in order to meet demand.

Vikram Hansrani explained that further work was required to show the splits of places. However, the LA was now in a better position to produce that information, which they had not been able to do previously. It was planned this information would be ready to share at the next Schools Forum meeting scheduled for December.

Following a query about the 11 post-16 places at Haybrook College, Vikram Hansrani would follow this up with Jamie Rockman, adding that although the funding had changed, the 11 places were still there. It was agreed the information needed to be captured.

Vikram Hansrani would discuss the impact of four academic years increase with secondary Headteachers.

#### **661. Report of Banding and Resource Base working groups**

Vikram Hansrani explained that the Banding working group had been carrying out detailed work since March 2018. This small group of LA officers and school leaders from across all educational sectors had been working on a revised SEND banding model which contained 5 band descriptors, based on the model established by Essex County Council. Final proposals would be presented to Schools Forum in December 2018 and consultation with educational settings and parent/carers on the proposed new banding model would take place in January 2019. In addition, there would be supporting coffee mornings with parent/carers. The new banding model would be implemented with effect from April 2019 for new assessment requests and phase transfers. In addition, the working group was due to meet in November to look at the financial impact of the banding model, to ensure money was spent effectively.

There had previously been a lack of LA support for Resource bases, with incorrect information posted on school websites. This situation had been addressed and

work was ongoing to ensure Banding and Resource base contracts were in place and that spaces were being used correctly.

The Resource Base working group had met on a number of occasions during the spring and summer terms and a Resource Base event had been held in September (co-hosted by Slough Borough Council and Special Voices, Slough Parent/Carer Forum). Meetings were taking place with individual schools regarding numbers, categories of need and Service Level Agreements (SLAs).

### **9.15am: Carol Pearce left the meeting**

Consideration had been given to how the LA would review, address and monitor outcomes going forward and it was planned an appointment would be made to carry out that role.

It was pointed out that as there was no staggered approach to changing the funding model, special schools would face a number of financial challenges. The banding followed the child, but there was insufficient funding to support the infrastructure of special schools. It was acknowledged there was an awareness of some possible risks around funding although it was felt these would be covered and children entering any provision would be those with the most identified need and banding levels would be appropriate. It was felt that the banding group should ensure the funds followed the child, as the banding would be specific to the child, not for the running of the school. It was felt there would be financial risks attached to those assessed from April 2019 onwards.

Vikram Hansrani confirmed that the SLA contracts would be ready by the end of October. A member pointed out that the end of October fell in half term so the contracts would not actually be available before November. It was confirmed that with effect from April 2019 any new statutory assessment for a child would go through the new banding, those already in the system would remain on the old system until they reached a transition stage ie. Nursery to Primary, Year 6 to Year 7. It would not have been possible to reband approximately 1,400 children, hence the need to roll out the new system. This methodology had been included in discussions about the introduction of the new assessments.

It was pointed out that there were historical inequities between special schools which should also be taken into account. Although the work and transparency of the LA was appreciated, special schools would experience a considerable financial loss over a number of years. It was added that, with the current pressure on school budgets, along with consultation of 15 October 2018, schools would not necessarily be aware of the SEN funding, there could be a small number of schools experiencing funding issues. Vikram Hansrani explained such a situation could be handled by LA finance colleagues but there would not be sufficient time to supply the funding information for the 5-16 consultation. It was suggested that, when published, reference was drawn to the fact that there were two separate consultations.

### **662. Academies Update**

It was understood that Arbour Vale School was working towards a conversion date of 1 November 2018.

### **663. 2018-19 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log**



The Forward Agenda Plan 2018/19 and Key Decisions Log were noted.

**(Note:** The Meeting opened at 8.15 am and closed at 9.30 am)

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**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM**  
**4<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

**Directorate of Children, Learning and Skills**

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**Growth Fund 2019-20**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To ask that Schools' Forum review the allocation criteria for the Growth Fund, agree the maximum 'top slice' and agree the allocation model that will apply for 2019-20.
- 1.2 To provide Schools' Forum with an update of the Growth Fund expenditure for 2018-19, consider whether to provide support for Grove Academy for a second year and agree to carry forward the projected balance of funding.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Growth Fund will fund the following additional places at both primary and secondary schools, where expansion is requested and agreed in advance by Slough Borough Council:
  - a) Bulge classes including at new schools;
  - b) Permanent expansions at maintained schools and academies until a school is full in all year groups (and when new classes are opened); and
  - c) New places in excess of Planned Admission Numbers (PAN).
- 2.2 That the forecast outturn for 2018-19 in Appendix A is noted and the updated allocations of Growth Funding for 2019-20 as shown in Appendix B are agreed.
- 2.3 That consideration is again given to providing additional funding to academies in the second year after opening a bulge class to reflect the growth between October Censuses.
- 2.4 That consideration is given to utilising a percentage of the projected underspends in 2018-19 and 2019-20 to contribute towards the Council's costs for underwriting places at Grove Academy.
- 2.5 That consideration is given to the request from schools for a Falling Rolls Fund.

### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The birth rate for Slough rose by 48% over the 9 year period from 2006-7 to 2015-16. More than half of existing primary schools expanded over this period and a number of new schools opened. After reducing for 3 consecutive years the number of births appears to have now stabilised. Inward migration to Slough continues to affect in-year admissions; bulge classes and larger classes will be the main solution where local shortages emerge.
- 3.2 The population growth is impacting secondary schools and a large scale growth in provision is underway. A number of new free schools have opened in recent years and 3 schools have seen or will see large expansion projects carried out on their sites funded by the LA. A further two selective schools have either expanded or will expand by 2019 without funding from Slough.
- 3.3 The prescribed methodology for calculating revenue funding for schools means that growing schools are not fully funded for the extra pupils attending the school. The reason for this shortfall in funding is due to the lag in the period from pupils starting until they appear on the School Census and funding is allocated at a later date. To support schools through this period of lag in funding while they are expanding the LA requests a sum of money through Schools' Forum called the "Growth Fund".
- 3.4 The methodology for qualification and allocation of the Growth Fund is reviewed and agreed by Schools' Forum on an annual basis. Schools' Forum is asked to consider the financial impact on schools of expansion and agree an affordable level of additional revenue support.
- 3.5 The funding criteria outlined in Section 5 below and proposed for 2019-20 is based on the criteria agreed by School's Forum in January 2018 and applied in 2018-19, any variations are indicated.

### **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 All options for creating new places are being explored by Slough including:
- Bulge classes – classes of 30 pupils, opened to provide capacity for new arrivals and supported by the Growth Fund;
  - Permanent expansions –full form of entry added to an existing school by the LA. They require ongoing commitment from the Growth Fund to deal with the lag in revenue funding;
  - Increased class sizes or numbers above PAN – termly commitment from the Growth Fund where pupils are not recorded on the October School Census;
  - New Free Schools – originally funded by the ESFA with no call on the Growth Fund, a different approach has been taken by the ESFA for Grove Academy. Bulge classes may be requested at new schools by the LA and will be treated the same as any other bulge class.

## 5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The Growth Fund is one of the centrally held budget areas that Schools' Forum has decision making powers over. Guidance on how the Growth Fund should be approved and allocated can be found in *Schools Revenue Funding 2019 to 2020 – Operational Guide* (July 2018). Paragraph 115 states:

*“The growth fund can only be used to:*

- *support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need*
- *support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation*
- *meet the costs of new schools*

Paragraph 117 states: *The cost of new schools...will also include post-start-up and diseconomy costs...where they are created to meet basic need.*

### 5.2 **Level of Funding – Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)**

The methodology for distributing funding is based on AWPU per pupil, reflecting the proportion of the year which is not funded within the school's budget share. For 2018-19 it was agreed to apply the 2018-19 AWPU level with secondary funding based on the average AWPU for KS3 and KS4. Given current uncertainty around AWPU levels for 2019-20 it is proposed that 2018-19 AWPU rates are used for 2019-20. Final allocations will be based on AWPU rates for 2019-20 once these are finalised.

### 5.3 **Bulge Classes**

Bulge classes must be agreed in advance by the LA.

- 5.4 Slough's maintained schools receive Growth Funding for September until March and academies receive funding for September through until August. The different funding periods reflect the difference in financial years for each category of school: maintained schools receive their funding from April to March, while academies are funded from September to August.
- 5.5 in 2016-17 and 2017-18, two schools, Marish Primary and Cippenham Primary, received a one-off payment of additional funding in the second year of their bulge classes. Whilst it was made clear this was not setting a precedent, Schools' Forum agreed to apply this criterion again in 2018-19 and is asked to consider applying this again for 2019-20.
- 5.6 An issue that was first flagged in 2016 is that the lag for academies can be longer than 12 months if pupils are admitted after the October Census. If a bulge class were to open November 2016 for instance with 30 pupils, then an academy would not receive funding for this class until 22 months later.
- 5.7 This issue could also apply when an academy opens a class in September 2018 with a small number on roll. It is rare that a new bulge class will be full as its purpose is to provide capacity for the rest of the academic year for new

arrivals; if it were full then the authority may look to open a further bulge class. The bulge class will fill up throughout the year with many pupils starting after the October 2018 Census. In the second year after opening the academy would only receive funding for the number on roll at the time of the October Census 2018. For a period of 10 months in the second year the school would absorb the full cost of the bulge class having received funding for a partial class.

- 5.8 A number of options for providing additional funding were originally considered by Schools Forum in 2017. It was agreed that funding would be allocated based on the following table. It should be noted that this methodology does not 'ghost fund' places and can still result in the school subsidising some of the cost of a teacher, however it ensures every pupil is funded while remaining affordable.

<b>Funding Calculation</b>
Fund the difference in number of pupils between the first year Autumn School Census and the second year.
For instance NOR Census 2017 = 10 NOR Census 2018 = 20 Fund (20 – 10) = 10 places

- 5.9 Only one bulge class opened in 2018-19, it had very few pupils in the class at the time of the 2018 Autumn Census. It is likely that the class will have more pupils by the time of the 2019 Autumn Census and will be entitled to additional funding in 2019-20 if this criterion is supported by Schools' Forum. Appendix B assumes this class might be full by October 2019 and would be entitled to an additional payment of £80K.

**5.10 Expansion by a Form of Entry**

The Growth Fund provides financial support for all the years a school incurs a shortfall in funding whilst going through a permanent expansion. Where a school grows from Reception up to Year 6, they will receive funding for a full class for 7 years if they grow gradually by one class a year. If a school doesn't have an additional class then it wouldn't be entitled to funding, for instance a bulge class leaves the school in the top year while an extra class joins in the lowest year group. In this case the school will have the same number of classes for 2 consecutive years and Growth Funding isn't necessary.

**5.11 Larger Classes or Numbers in Excess of PAN**

The Growth Fund will provide financial support for schools that admit pupils in excess of their PAN for each whole term that they make each additional place available at the request of Slough. For instance, where a school makes 96 places available into a year group instead of 90 at Slough's request, the school would be funded for 6 additional places for each full term the places are available.

- 5.12 Funding Mechanism - Schools will receive AWPU funding for 'the period' that they make each 'additional place' available at the request of Slough.

**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.

- 5.13 Academies - There is an issue with funding of academies between April and August as the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) 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 ESFA. Therefore the Growth Fund will also fund this period for academies.

- 5.14 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.

5.15 **Underwritten Places at Grove Academy**

Grove Academy opened for September 2017 but only after it was agreed with the ESFA that Slough would underwrite the following number of pupils for the first 3 years to ensure the viability of the school. Without this agreement the school would not have opened and Slough would not have had sufficient capacity.

	Year Groups					Total
	R	1	2	3	7	
2017-18	30	30	30	30	120	240
	1	2	3	4	8	Total
2018-19	30	30	30	30	120	240
	2	3	4	5	9	Total
2019-20	30	30	30	30	120	240

The tables above can be compared to the tables below which show the actual numbers on roll in October each year. The underwritten classes have filled significantly between October 2017 and October 2018, with a net gain of 97 pupils in that time.

	Year Groups					Total
	R	1	2	3	7	
2017-18	31	13	8	8	49	109

  

	1	2	3	4	8	Total
	2018-19	48	31	24	25	78

- 5.16 For new Free Schools the ESFA only provide funding for the number of pupils on roll on the October Census of the relevant school year. For this reason Slough was asked to fund the empty places in each class to ensure the school has the revenue funding it needs to deliver a full curriculum.
- 5.17 Based on estimates at the time Schools' Forum agreed to provide up to £90K for year 1 or 50% of the actual cost for underwriting places whichever was the lower figure. In the end Slough contributed £167K for underwriting costs and the Growth Fund contributed £90K.
- 5.18 Schools' Forum is asked to consider whether some of the underspend from the 2018-19 Growth Fund budget could be utilised to fund up to 50% of cost for a second year and again for a third/final year. Slough (not Schools' Forum) originally agreed to underwrite this cost as there was no time for discussion with Schools' Forum at the time. However, the guidance in para 5.1 demonstrates that use of Growth Funding to meet the costs of a new school is allowed and is one of the 3 key aims of the Fund. Any decision would need to first consider the level of funding and contingency sums available in 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- 5.19 **Falling Rolls and Half Classes**  
Growth Funding is not permitted to support reductions or falling rolls. A separate fund called the Falling Rolls Fund can be set up from the DSG for this purpose. The explanation in the *Schools Revenue Funding 2019 to 2020 – Operational Guide* (July 2018) has been included in full in Appendix C.
- 5.20 The Local Authority is not making any recommendation within this report but is opening up the topic for discussion with Schools' Forum members.
- 5.21 The issue of falling rolls and the impact this can have on viability is taken very seriously by the LA. However, it is not clear, assuming Schools' Forum supports it, that a Falling Rolls Fund would be useful for many schools. The criteria that apply would mean that only Good and Outstanding Schools can apply for funding and a case would need to be made that the surplus places would be needed within 3 years. At this point Slough does not have any evidence that birth levels will raise again overall although there may be rises in specific localities.



5.22 One alternative to the Falling Rolls Fund could be a managed process between the school and LA Admissions Team to wind down classes that are no longer needed or have an unviable number of pupils. The Admissions Code would, however, limit the effectiveness of this tactic.

5.23 **ESFA Growth Fund Settlement**

At this point it is uncertain how much funding Slough will be allocated by the ESFA for Growth in 2019-20. If Slough's final allocation is lower than expected then there may be a need to revisit the 'top slice' and allocation model, in which case a further paper will be brought to Schools' Forum for consideration.

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

6.1 Borough Solicitor

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.

6.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

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

6.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

## 7 **CONSULTATION**

7.1 Principal Groups Consulted

School Organisation Group, Slough Schools Education Forum and all primary schools were consulted on the option of larger classes in late 2015. This has been reported to Schools' Forum in previous reports.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

Tony Madden (Principal Asset Manager)

(01753 875739)

[tony.madden@slough.gov.uk](mailto:tony.madden@slough.gov.uk)

Domenico Barani (Principal Accountant, ECS)

(01753 690709)

[Domenico.Barani@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Domenico.Barani@slough.gov.uk)

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## 2019-20 Estimates for Growth Fund Allocation (£)

## Appendix B

Date: Nov 2018

<b>Primary AWPU (2018-19)</b>	<b>3,208.72</b>
Pupils per Class	30
Full Year Growth Funding Per Class	96,261.60
All schools (Sep 17 - Mar 18)	56,152.60
Academies (Apr 18 - Aug 18)	40,109.00

<b>Secondary AWPU (2018-19 average)</b>	<b>4,322.05</b>
Pupils per Class	30
Full Year Growth Funding Per Class	129,661.35
All schools (Sep 18 - Mar 19)	75,635.79
Academies (Apr 19 - Aug 19)	54,025.56

<b>17-18 BUDGET (excluding funding claimed from the ESFA for academies)</b>		
CARRY FORWARD 2018-19 (to be agreed by School's Finance)	72,522	could be higher if Grove support not given
TOP SLICE FROM 2019-20 SCHOOL BLOCK (agreed by Schools' Forum)	900,000	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>972,522</b>	

### FORECAST EXPENDITURE 2019-20

	School	Status	New Pupils	No. of Classes	Remaining years	Sept 2019 - March 2020	April 2020 - August 2020	TOTAL	
PRIMARY	Claycots School	Non-Academy	30	1	3	56,153		56,153	
	St Mary's CE Primary School	Non-Academy	30	1	1	56,153		56,153	
SECONDARY	Langley Grammar	Academy	30	1	3	75,636	54,026	129,661	
	The Westgate School	Academy	60	2	4	151,272	108,051	259,323	
	Wexham School	Non-Academy	75	2.5	4 / 5	189,089		189,089	
<b>Funding academy bulge class in 2nd year (estimated growth Oct-18-Oct-19)</b>									
	Marish Primary School	Academy	25	1	1	80,218		80,218	estimate
<b>CONTINGENCY REQUIREMENTS</b>									
	Provisional primary academy class	Academy	30	1	1	56,153	40,109	96,262	
	Provisional primary class or 15 x 'plus 2s'	50% Academy	30	1	1	56,153	20,055	76,207	
	Grove Academy - underwriting support	Academy / FS				60,000	0		not agreed
	<b>Total</b>		<b>310</b>	<b>10.5</b>		<b>780,825</b>	<b>222,240</b>	<b>943,065</b>	

### ESTIMATED UNDERSPEND (FINANCIAL YR 19-20)

**191,697**

Historically Slough has always ended up with an underspend at year end from the Growth Fund budget. This reflects the cautious approach that is taken with contingency requirements. The preference is to have a working surplus rather than risk unexpected growth mid-year which requires an additional contribution from DSG.

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### Falling rolls fund

Local authorities may set aside schools block funding to create a small fund to support good schools with falling rolls, where local planning data shows that the surplus places will be needed within the next three financial years.

- 1.1. The Schools Forum should agree both the value of the fund and the criteria for allocation, and the local authority should regularly update the Schools Forum on the use of the funding.
- 1.2. As with the growth fund, the falling rolls fund is also within the national funding formula schools block.

Criteria for allocating falling rolls funding should contain clear objective trigger points for qualification, and a clear formula for calculating allocations. Differences in allocation methodology are permitted between phases.

- 1.3. Compliant criteria would generally contain some of the features set out below:
  - support is available only for schools judged good or outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection (this is a mandatory requirement)
  - surplus capacity exceeds a minimum number of pupils, or a percentage of the published admission number
  - local planning data shows a requirement for a minimum percentage of the surplus places within the next three years
  - formula funding available to the school will not support provision of an appropriate curriculum for the existing cohort
  - the school will need to make redundancies in order to contain spending within its formula budget
- 1.4. Methodologies for distributing funding could include:
  - a rate per vacant place, up to a specified maximum number of places (place value likely to be based on AWPU)
  - a lump sum payment with clear parameters for calculation (for example, the estimated cost of providing an appropriate curriculum, or estimated salary costs equivalent to the number of staff who would otherwise be made redundant)

Where falling rolls funding is payable to academies, the local authority should fund the increase for the period from the additional September intake through until the following August.

Local authorities should report any falling rolls funds remaining at the end of the financial year to the Schools Forum.

- 1.5. Funding may be carried forward to the following funding period, as with any other centrally retained budget, and local authorities can choose to use it specifically for falling rolls.

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**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM**  
**4 December 2018**

**Directorate of Children Learning and Skills**

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**DSG Budget 2019/20**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This is a series of 4 reports to advise Schools' Forum of the work that has been done by the 5-16 Task Group on the composition of the local 5-16 funding formula for 2019/20. It also informs Forum of the views of schools following the results of recent consultations.
- 1.2 It also seeks separate approvals to the correct the base budget for the Schools Block, Central Services Block and the High Needs Block following the misalignment of these blocks last year.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The recommendations are listed within the respective part of each report.

## PART A

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### **Approval to correct the 2019/20 Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) Budgets and agree the CSSB for 2019/20**

#### **3 Purpose of Report**

To advise the Forum about the services funded from the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) in 2019-20 and the approvals required by the Forum.

- 3.1 To request permission from Schools' Forum to move £100,000 for the Virtual School from historic commitments (contribution to combined budgets) to ongoing commitments. This will mitigate the requirement to have an ongoing reduction in the Virtual School's budget. The Council has contacted the Education Schools Funding Agency (ESFA) to seek guidance with regard to this and it has been confirmed that under the current regulations it is permissible.

#### **3.2 Background**

In 2018-19 The CSSB was introduced as the fourth block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The CSSB provides funding for Local Authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in state-funded maintained schools and academies. The block is comprised of two elements; historical commitments which are allocated based on the baselining exercise performed by the DfE in 2017/18 and ongoing responsibilities which are based on a pupil-led formula linked to the baselining exercise. The DfE have confirmed that funding for historic commitments in 2019/20 will be allocated at the same level as in 2018-19, with the expectation that spending on historic commitments will continue to reduce over time.

- 3.3 From 2020/21, the DfE expect to start to reduce the historic commitments element of the central school services funding block where authorities' expenditure has not reduced. "We do not believe it is fair to maintain significant differences in funding indefinitely between local authorities, where these differences reflect historic decisions." (National funding formula policy document 19/20)

#### **4 Incorrect Base for the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)**

- 4.1 In 2018/19 Schools' Forum agreed to move **£276,370** from the High Needs Block (HNB) to the CSSB to reallocate funds incorrectly baselined from 2017/18. The agreement by Schools' Forum last year was for one year only and therefore the DSG will start the new financial year with same imbalance in the base budgets as was the case last year. The Council is now seeking Schools' Forum approval to make the appropriate transfers in 2019/20 and beyond should the settlement be insufficient to fund the CSSB as it was in 2018/19.

#### **4.2 Approval for CSSB Budget 2019/20**

Schools Forum are asked to approve the Central Schools Services Block allocations to the following budgets;

##### **4.2.1 Admissions - £178,100**

The school admissions budget funds the School Admissions Team. The team is responsible for the Local Authority's school admission processes. This includes co-ordination of the reception and secondary transfer admissions processes. This involves providing all residents who wish to apply with information about the process and an application form, processing all



applications received and ensuring all applicants have one offer of a school place on national offer day. The team also co-ordinate in year primary and secondary admissions. Parents moving into Slough are provided with an application form and are offered a school place as soon as possible, usually within 4 weeks. The team deals with around 6000 applications annually.

#### **4.2.2 Servicing of Schools Forum - £53,055**

The budget for servicing the Schools Forum represents the costs incurred in providing this statutory duty. The LA is required to co-ordinate at least four Schools Forum meetings per year. This budget contributes to the running costs of Schools' Forums including any agreed and reasonable expenses for members attending meetings, the costs of producing and distributing papers, costs of room hire and refreshments and for clerking of meetings.

#### **4.2.3 LA Childrens Safeguarding Board - £30,000**

Contributions to the Safeguarding function adds value to the work of the Slough Childrens Safeguarding Board (SCSB) and support all schools and academies in their vital work to keep children and young people safe and achieve compliance with Ofsted requirements.

#### **4.2.4 Virtual School - £100,000**

Contributions to the operation of the Virtual School have developed the range of the service to create better outcomes for children looked after by Slough. To build the system we have funded training through a large conference, training our new designated teachers (last year 5, this year 42) and running the Designated Teacher meetings. The knowledge of attachment needs through early life trauma for example is now much better understood in the Slough education system. If you get it right for children looked after it has a positive impact from other vulnerable groups. This may even support children not to come into care. It will also improve the OFSTED judgements on Slough schools in respect to vulnerable children.

The funding is also used to widen and deepen the range of services offered by the Virtual School, where support is available for under 5s, post 16, those in FE and HE. We also have capacity to support schools and carers with SGOs and adopters. We are forging links with Heathrow and developing apprenticeships. The evidence in the Virtual Annual Report is the KPIs have been met and in some cases exceeded. Further detail of the service can be found in the reports pack on the following link to the Schools Forum presentation; [Virtual School Presentation](#)

#### **4.2.4 Copyright Licences - £124,325**

This is negotiated centrally for all authorities; schools cannot opt out for these licences;

- Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA)
- Schools Printed Music Licence (SPML)
- Newspaper Licensing Authority (NLA)
- Education Recording Authority (ERA)
- Public Video Streaming Licence (PVSL)
- Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC)
- Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL)
- Performing Rights Society (PRS)
- Mechanical Copyright Protection Society (MCPS)
- Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI)

#### 4.2.5 Education Welfare (ESG) - £144,672

The statutory Education Welfare functions include the promotion of good attendance for all children and young people, enforcement duties on behalf of schools and Academies for non attendance and the licensing processes for the employment and engagement in entertainment activities by children and young people. In Slough the Attendance Team are responsible for these activities except licensing which is the responsibility of the Admissions & Transport Team. It also includes monitoring of attendance and the early intervention in cases of absence giving cause for concern in schools and academies. The Attendance Team also has an essential role in safeguarding and family support. The team are also involved in work linked to the MASH.

#### 4.2.6 Asset Management (ESG) - £12,818

Contribution to the services related to school buildings including those leased to academies. Examples include the schools building condition survey, PFI negotiations and the asset management plan.

#### 4.2.7 Statutory and Regulatory (ESG) - £258,400

Contributions to the statutory posts of DCS and the Head of the Virtual School for children in care, audit, revenue budget preparation, SACRE and the provision of information to Ofsted, DfE and other government bodies as required. Business support for education functions and systems for strategic information returns such as the school census are funded from this contribution.

Contributions to the statutory post of DCS, audit, revenue budget preparation, SACRE and the provision of information to Ofsted, DfE and other government bodies as required. Business support for education functions and systems for strategic information returns such as the School Census are funded from this contribution. Please see the link below for further details of what this service and others may cover. [Schools Funding Operational Guide 19/20 p50](#)

- 4.3 The provisional settlement of the CSSB for 2019/20 is **£636,804**. The provisional expenditure is £901,370. Based on the provisional settlement the CSSB element of the DSG will not be sufficient to cover the expenditure required from this block, the shortfall is £264,566. The element for licenses is variable and dependant on the negotiated price by the DfE. Prices for 2019/20 have not yet been confirmed.

#### Draft Central Services Schools Block required for 2019-20

Area	Service	Budget
Contribution to Combined Budgets	LA Safeguarding Childrens Board	30,000
	Virtual School	100,000
<b>Sub Total - Historical Commitment</b>		<b>130,000</b>
Servicing of Schools Forum		53,055
Admissions		178,100
Copyright Licences		124,325
Education Welfare (Former ESG)		144,672
Asset Management (Former ESG)		12,818
Statutory Regulatory(Former ESG)		258,400
<b>Sub Total - Ongoing Commitment</b>		<b>771,370</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>901,370</b>

Please see **Appendix A1** for the detail of this block should the movement of the Virtual School from historic commitments to ongoing commitments be agreed.

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 Forum agrees;

- a) the permanent budget transfer totalling **£264,566** from the High Needs Block to the Central Schools Services Block, should the final allocation for the CSSB prove insufficient to meet the commitments;
- b) the allocations of the following budgets within the CSSB as outlined below
  - Admissions
  - Servicing of Schools Forum
  - Education Welfare (Former ESG)
  - Asset management (Former ESG)
  - Statutory & Regulatory (Former ESG)
  - Contribution to combined budgets: LA Safeguarding Childrens Board, Virtual School
- c) The transfer of £100,000 from historical commitments (contribution to combined budgets) to ongoing commitments (statutory and regulatory) for the virtual school.

Forum notes the requirement to fund Copyright Licences (as negotiated by the Secretary of State).

## **6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

6.1 Not applicable

## **7 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

7.1 The details for the 2019/20 CSS block can be found on the following link should further detailed information on the central block be required; please refer to the link below from the DfE website. [Central Schools Services Block Technical Note](#)

## **8 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

8.1 Monitoring Officer

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

8.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

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

8.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

## **9 CONSULTATION**

Not applicable

*Contact for further information*

Susan Woodland; DSG Consultant; [susan.woodland@slough.gov.uk](mailto:susan.woodland@slough.gov.uk)

## Central Services Schools Block 2019-20

Area	Service	Budget	Allocation	Variance	Contributions to balance CSSB	
Contribution to Combined Budgets	LA Safeguarding Children's Board	30,000				
<b>Historical Cmt sub total</b>		<b>30,000</b>	78,000	48,000		
Servicing of Schools Forum		53,055				
Admissions		178,100				
Copyright Licences		124,325			Transfer from HNB	124,325
Education Welfare (Former ESG)		144,672				
Asset Management (Former ESG)		12,818				
Statutory & Regulatory (Former ESG) including Virtual School		358,400				
<b>Ongoing Cmt Sub Total</b>		<b>871,370</b>	558,804	312,566	Transfer variance from HNB	140,241
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>901,370</b>	<b>636,804</b>	<b>264,566</b>		<b>264,566</b>

## PART B

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### **Approval to correct the 2019/20 School Block & High Needs Block Base Budgets**

#### **10 Purpose of Report**

10.1 To request permission from Schools' Forum to transfer **£500,000** from the High Needs Block to the Schools Block for 2019/20.

#### **10.2 Background**

In the 2018/19 financial year, Schools' Forum agreed to transfer funding from the High Needs Block to the Schools Block in order to remedy an error in the 2017-18 baseline return, which created an imbalance between the Schools Block (SB) allocation and High Needs Block (HNB) allocation. The agreement by Schools' Forum last year was for one year only and therefore the DSG will start the new financial year with same imbalance in the base budgets as was the case last year.

#### **11 High Needs Block transfer to Schools Block**

11.1 The DSG block allocation for 2019/20 is predicated on the 2017/18 baseline. In order to keep the blocks aligned as they were in 2018/19 a transfer between the High Needs Block and Schools' Block of £500,000 is required. This transfer is a reallocation of funding between blocks to correct an error (as in 2018/19), it not to simply to take additional funding from an already highly pressured budget.

11.2 The Schools' Block revenue modelling already assumes this transfer.

#### **12 RECOMMENDATIONS**

12.1 Forum agrees;

- To transfer £500,000 from the High Needs Block to the schools block to replicate the movement actioned in 2018/19 to correct the baselining of the DSG in 2017/18.

#### **13 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

13.1 Not applicable

#### **14 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

14.1 Not applicable

#### **15 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

##### 15.1 Monitoring Officer

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

##### 15.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

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

##### 15.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

#### **16 CONSULTATION**

Not applicable

## PART 3

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### Schools' Block Consultation Outcome

#### 17 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

17.1 This report provides Schools' Forum with the outcome from the consultation with schools on the 2019-20 revenue funding options that were agreed at the October 2018 and subsequent November 2018 Task Group meeting.

#### 17.2 Background

The October 5-16 Task Group discussed at length the options to be put forward to schools as part of the annual 5-16 Schools' Revenue budget setting process, in light of the recent update from the DfE to delay the full implementation of the full NFF by one more year to April 2021. The consultation ran from the 17<sup>th</sup> October to the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The Task Group decided that schools should be consulted on two funding options;

- **Option 1:** Retain the status quo; 50% transition to NFF funding rates.
- **Option 2:** 75% transition to NFF funding rates.

17.3 It was also discussed at Task Group that the LA expressed an interest to top-slice the Schools' Block by 0.5% to help fund High Needs Block budgetary pressures. The 0.5% top-slice is currently allowable under DSG regulations. In light of this expression, a separate consultation has been issued to all schools to seek their views on this proposal. The consultation ran for one week from the 19<sup>th</sup> November to the 26<sup>th</sup> November at 17:00. The results of the consultation will be presented to Schools' Forum on the 4<sup>th</sup> December (see Part D to this report below).

#### 18 RECOMMENDATIONS

18.1 That Schools' Forum:

- a) Notes the outcome from the consultation with all 44 schools in that;

Responses were received from 15 schools (39%)

- 7 schools selected option 1 (50%)
- 8 schools selected option 2 (75%)

- b) Endorses the recommendation of the Task Group for an "in-between" third option, set at **65%** transition toward NFF.

#### 19. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

19.1 The three "soft" financial years offer the opportunity to plan and prepare for the 'journey' towards the proposed implementation of the 'hard' NFF in 2021-22. Accordingly, through discussions in the 5-16 Task Group concerning the results of the consultation, a third option has been recommended. The reasons for a 65% transition are;

1. The low response rate to the consultation from schools,
2. The narrowness of the preference for one option over the other,

3. The uncertainty of whether full NFF implementation will be delayed again,
4. To better smooth the illustrative impact on all schools.

The implications of the third “65%” option have been modelled and the indicative budgets for each school are attached as Appendix C1. Schools’ Forum members are reminded that these budgets are indicative, based on the local formula suggested by Task Group and estimated pupil numbers for 2019-20. The final budgets for schools will not be known until the DfE issues the Council’s final DSG allocation later this year.

## **20 BUDGET TIMETABLE**

- 20.1 Schools’ Forum is reminded of the revised budget preparation timetable and this report provides an update on the final stages for January as set out below:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target Date/Completion</b>
Build 2019-20 financial model	Oct -18
Consultation	Oct – Nov 18
Review Consultation results	Nov-18
Propose additional option	Nov-18
Choose preferred option	Dec-18
ESFA publish initial 2019-120 DSG block	19 <sup>th</sup> December (2017 date)
Submit final APT to DfE with agreed political ratification date if not already obtained	19 <sup>th</sup> January

## **21 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 21.1 Not applicable.

## **22 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### 22.1 Monitoring Officer

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

### 22.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

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

### 22.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

## **23 CONSULTATION**

- 23.1 See paragraphs 1.1, 2 and 3 above.

### Contact for further information

Domenico Barani

Group Accountant - Children and Schools

[Domenico.barani@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Domenico.barani@slough.gov.uk)

## Appendix C1

<b>Recommended Option - 65% Transition to NFF - Balance to AWPU</b>	
<b>School</b>	<b>Indicative budget share (£)</b>
Baylis Court School	4,293,657
Beechwood School	4,858,739
Castleview Primary School	1,860,305
Cippenham Infant School	1,117,461
Cippenham Primary School	3,078,880
Claycots School	6,535,961
Colnbrook Church of England Primary School	989,663
Ditton Park Academy	4,893,643
Eden Girls' School, Slough	3,124,651
Foxborough Primary School	1,313,306
Godolphin Infant School	1,301,401
Grove Academy	2,242,464
Herschel Grammar School	3,419,091
Holy Family Catholic Primary School	1,718,914
Iqra Slough Islamic Primary School	2,603,269
James Elliman Academy	2,804,534
Khalsa Primary School	1,680,543
Langley Grammar School	4,031,850
Langley Hall Primary Academy	2,988,038
Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy	3,711,890
Lynch Hill School Primary Academy	3,471,820
Marish Primary School	2,842,256
Montem Academy	3,722,655
Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School	2,480,236
Parlaunt Park Primary Academy	2,390,133
Penn Wood Primary and Nursery School	3,158,930
Pippins School	791,566
Priory School	3,207,247
Ryvers School	2,554,391
Slough and Eton Cof E Business & Enterprise College	5,766,884
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School	2,308,635
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School	2,931,999
St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School	1,805,582
St Joseph's Catholic High School	4,130,633
St Mary's Church of England Primary School	2,497,114
The Godolphin Junior Academy	2,016,178
The Langley Academy	5,001,681
The Langley Academy Primary	1,731,901
The Westgate School	5,093,407
Upton Court Grammar School	3,812,760
Western House Academy	2,465,354
Wexham Court Primary School	2,650,786
Wexham School	3,924,505
Willow Primary School	1,774,337
<b>Total To Schools</b>	<b>131,099,250</b>
<b>Growth Fund</b>	<b>900,000</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>131,999,250</b>



## PART 4

### Outcome on Consultation to transfer 0.5% from Schools' Block to High Needs Block

#### 24 Purpose of Report

24.1 To advise the Forum of the Local Authority's decision to request a 0.5% transfer from the Schools' Block to the High Needs Block.

#### 24.2 Background

Under DfE regulations, Schools' Forum can agree to transfer up to 0.5% (approx £660k) from the Schools Block to other blocks to reprioritise DSG funding. The LA expressed an interest making a request to top-slice the schools' block by 0.5% to help fund the significant budget pressures that have built up on the High Needs Block. This was discussed at the 5-16 Task Group meetings.

24.3 A consultation has been issued to all schools and academies to seek their views on this proposal. The consultation closed on the 26<sup>th</sup> November at 17:00. The results of the consultation are therefore not available to include in this report and will be presented to Schools' Forum on the 4<sup>th</sup> December.

#### 25 Schools' Block Transfer to High Needs Block

25.1 It has been well documented that there is a sustained funding pressure on the High Needs Block. Whilst there is a considerable amount of work being done within the SEND section to alleviate this pressure and a paper on this is now expected to be presented to Forum in January 2019, it is recognised that it will be a while before the considered strategies that will be put into place will realise the required savings. Also the council needs to demonstrate that it has considered all avenues in its attempts to deal with this problem.

25.2 The High Needs Block currently has a forecast cumulative deficit of £7.5m. Table 2.3 shows how the deficit has accumulated over the past few years.

Year	Brought Forward £m	Outturn £m	DSG Allocation £m	Variance £m	Carried Forward £m	Annual Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
2016/17	-195,656	19,565,447	17,092,587	2,472,860	2,277,204	12.64%	13.32%
2017/18	2,277,204	21,552,456	18,315,642	3,236,814	5,514,018	15.02%	30.11%
2018/19	5,514,018	20,022,172	18,015,800	2,006,372	7,520,390	10.02%	41.74%

25.3 A more detailed paper on the High Needs deficit and the strategies proposed to address this problem will be tabled at January's Schools' Forum.

#### 26 RECOMMENDATIONS

26.1 Forum agrees;

- To transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block settlement to the High Needs Block. *Based on current estimates this will equate to £660k. Please note this is an estimated figure and will change depending on final pupil numbers and DSG settlement.*

#### 27 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

27.1 Not applicable

## **28 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

28.1 Not applicable

## **29 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### 29.1 Monitoring Officer

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

### 29.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

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

### 29.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

## **30 CONSULTATION**

Not applicable

### Contact for further information

Susan Woodland

DSG Consultant

[susan.woodland@slough.gov.uk](mailto:susan.woodland@slough.gov.uk)

**Slough Schools' Forum:  
2018/19 Forward Agenda Plan**

**Meeting 3 – Wednesday 16 January 2019**

No.	Description	Lead
1.	Update on national funding issues/local funding issues	Nic Barani
2.	Schools Block Budget - Final Authority Proforma Tool (APT) for 2019/20	Nic Barani
3.	Budget timeline for 2019/20	Nic Barani
4.	High Needs Block Deficit Reduction Strategy and Centrally Retained Budget (line by line detail)	Vikram Hansrani
5.	Growth fund allocations and issues	Tony Madden
6.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years (verbal)	
7.	Early Years Block 2019/20 – Including Centrally Retained and proposed formula	Michael Jarrett
8.	De-delegated funding for behaviour support services	Nic Barani
9.	Academies Update	
10.	2018/19 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log	

**Meeting 4 –Tuesday 5 March 2019**

No.	Description	Lead
1.	Update on national funding issues/local funding issues	Nic Barani
2.	Confirmation of Schools budgets 2019/20	Nic Barani
3.	High Needs Places and Update on HNB 2018/19	
4.	Update on centrally retained items: all blocks 2018/19	Nic Barani
5.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years (verbal)	
6.	Growth fund allocations and issues update	Tony Madden
7.	Academies Update	
8.	2018/19 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log	

**Meeting 5 – Wednesday 15 May 2019**

No.	Description	Lead
1.	Update on national funding issues/local funding issues	Nic Barani
2.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years (verbal) To include annual review of Terms of Reference	
3.	Academies Update	
4.	2018/19 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log	

**Meeting 6 – Thursday 4 July 2019**

No.	Description	Lead
1.	Update on national funding issues/local funding issues	Nic Barani
2.	Update on growth allocations and issues	Tony Madden
3.	Annual DSG Report 2018/19 including impact	Nic Barani
4.	Review of the Scheme for Financing Schools 2019/20	Nic Barani
5.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years (verbal)	
6.	Early Years Update	Michael Jarrett
7.	Schools Forum Membership	
8.	Academies Update	
9.	2019/20 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log	

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**Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2016 and ongoing**

<b>Issue and Decision</b>	<b>Schools Forum date</b>	<b>Schools Forum agenda item no.</b>	<b>School Forum Minute</b>
<b>Membership Update</b>			
Kathleen Higgins attending as an observer now that Beechwood is an academy	13/10/16	4	511
<b>PFI Proposal</b>			
Clarification of factor and SBC contribution to affordability gap deferred to December	13/10/16	5	510
<b>High Needs Block</b>			
Significant pressure on High Needs Block with overspend in range of 800k. Range of recovery options being considered by SBC	13/10/16	7	514
<b>PFI Update</b>			
£500k PFI contribution raised by the new finance officer (section 151). It was flagged up that the council may need to make a further request for contribution from the DSG. Other savings will be explored across the council but if a further request is made a full consultation will be employed with schools.	06/12/16	5	524
<b>High Needs Block</b>			
Overspend has been reduced to £300k at the current time. Figure can still fluctuate. Detailed recovery plan will be drafted.	06/12/16	6	525
<b>Centrally Retained</b>			
Recommendation agreed to retain £723,598	06/12/16	7	526
<b>Education Support Grant</b>			
School improvement and statutory services noted and Schools Forum agreed the transfer of the £430k from ESG to centrally retained. Total supported functions amount to £1.036 million. Includes bridging post between STSA and SBC	06/12/16	8	527
<b>De-delegated items</b>			
Behaviour Support Services (SEBDOS) approved but 5k for trade union activity NOT approved	06/12/16	10	529
<b>Growth Fund 2017-18</b>			
£900k centrally retained support for primary and secondary 2017/18 approved.	06/12/16	11	530
<b>Matters arising</b>			
SBC will not seek any portion of 500k PFI affordability gap for 2017/18. May present new proposals for 2018-19 following full consultation.	10/01/17	2	537
<b>ESG de-delegation</b>			
45k ESG de-delegation paper approved by maintained schools.	10/01/17	3	538
<b>Schools Block Budget</b>			
SBC consulted on requesting one-off 300k top slice from High Needs Block. Slough losing money overall as a result of change to National Funding Formula. Schools Forum encourages all schools to respond to Phase 2 of the DfE NFF consultation which closes 22nd March and will share response from Schools Forum once complete at March meeting.	10/01/17	4 and 5	539
<b>Forum membership</b>			
Updated membership in light of academy conversions meant deleting two vacancies from maintained schools and need to recruit two new academy members.	10/01/17	9	544
<b>National Fair Funding Update</b>			
DfE Stage 2 consultation: schools were encouraged to make individual responses (deadline 22nd March) in addition to collective Schools Forum response. <a href="https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/">https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/</a>	09/02/17	4	550
<b>Growth Fund 2017-18</b>			
2017-18 Growth Fund criteria agreed. Unit values were previously in line with 2015-16 AWPU values, but 2017-18 AWPU rates will now be used, with average of KS3 and KS4 for secondary. Agreed to fund numbers in bulge classes which open / fill after October census subject to costing and noted that Growth Fund criteria have to be confirmed by Schools Forum every year.	09/02/17	6	552
<b>High Needs Block</b>			
Schools Forum consulted on draft High Needs Block and some outstanding clarifications pending. .	09/02/17	7	553
<b>Matters Arising</b>			
A firm commitment was made by the LA to bring a detailed report to the October Schools Forum meeting to explain all PFI identified within the DSG, particularly relating to the Council's contribution and to the High Needs Block.	06/07/17	3	562

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<b>Review of Scheme for Financing Schools</b>			
A review will be completed over summer with consultation (maintained schools only) in September and proposals for any amendments to come to Schools Forum in October.	06/07/17	4	563
<b>Early Years Funding Formula</b>			
The hourly rates for 2 year olds, and for 3 and 4 year olds have been implemented following consultation; consultation will be carried out with regard to 2018/19 formula; required to move to full implementation of universal base rate for 3 and 4 year olds by April 2019.	06/07/17	6	565
<b>Membership</b>			
Vacancies in academy membership and extensions of terms of office of a number of members to be progressed with relevant groups: academy proprietors and Chairs of Governors as appropriate.	06/07/17	7	566
<b>High Needs Block Centrally Retained</b>			
Centrally retained budget of £2.4 million: work in progress with savings of £100k identified to date; further review over the summer and detailed breakdown will be provided for October Schools Forum including all references to PFI in High Needs Block.	06/07/17	8	567
<b>High Needs Group Terms of Reference</b>			
Terms of Reference for High Needs Group were endorsed.	06/07/17	9	568
<b>Membership</b>			
The membership of a number of members of Schools Forum was confirmed for a further term of office to July 2019 following consultation with academies and maintained schools: Maggie Waller, Navroop Mehat, Carol Pearce and Angela Mellish (maintained) and Helen Huntley, Gillian Coffey, Nicky Willis, Jo Rockall and John Constable (academies). Three academy vacancies: Kathleen Higgins and Valerie Harffey proposals have been agreed; one further nomination had been made: Peter Collins and this will be followed up.	10/10/17	2	575
<b>Chair and Vice Chair</b>			
Election of Maggie Waller as Chair and John Constable as Vice Chair confirmed to June 2018	10/10/17	2	575
<b>Schools' DSG Out-Turn 2016/17</b>			
Report noted with the 13 maintained schools carry forward balances.	10/10/17	5	578
<b>Early Years Funding</b>			
Report noted and EY Task Group to meet as part of the development of the 2018-19 budget.	10/10/17	6	579
<b>High Needs Block</b>			
Report noted including 2016/17 overspend in High Needs Block on £1,468,700. Aim is to balance the spend over two years and work is ongoing with further detail and clarification to be covered in High Needs Block group due to meet in October.	10/10/17	7	580
<b>National Funding Formula</b>			
Update provided and Task Group to meet to look at modelling for 2018/19 transition to NFF.	10/10/17	10	583
<b>Langley Hall Primary Academy: Exceptional Premises Factor Request</b>			
A request from Langley Hall Primary Academy for the creation of an exceptional premises factor to support payment of a school buildings lease was referred to all schools for full and detailed consultation. Following the consultation, as proposed in the report, Schools Forum will make the final decision about the factor, taking account of the results of the consultation.	10/10/17	11	584
<b>Scheme for Financing Schools</b>			
Consultation with maintained schools to take place on changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools. Changes are to bring Scheme in line with DfE current guidance.	10/10/17	12	585
<b>School Improvement and Education Services Grant 2017/18</b>			
Report corrected inaccuracies from December 2016 reports and re-profiled the ESG elements correctly. Implication is that funding of School Improvement supported by Schools Forum could be reduced for 2018/19.	10/10/17	13	586
<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>			
John Constable would write to academy proprietors requesting approval of the appointment of Peter Collins	09/11/17	3	593
Clerk to draft letter to members who did not attend Schools Forum meetings regularly			
John Voytal to circulate table of Scheme for Financing Schools			
<b>Schools National Funding Formula 2018/19</b>			
NFF models to be submitted to 5-16 Task Group prior to consultation with schools	09/11/17	5	595
<b>Schools Forum Constitution Update</b>			
Slough Schools Forum Guidance update to be taken to full Council	09/11/17	7	597

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<b>Matters Arising</b>			
Noted closing date for election process for academy member noted: Friday 8 December 2017	06/12/17	2	602
<b>Formula Changes for 2018/19</b>			
3 options presented at meeting, consultation to be sent to schools, agreed to extend closing date for responses to 9 January 2018.	06/12/17	4	604
<b>Scheme for Financing Schools</b>			
Reported no issues following consultation. Consultation with maintained schools completed. Maintained schools' members of Forum approved the revised scheme.	06/12/17	6	606
<b>Report on Resources Base Task Group Proposal/High Needs Commissioning Places</b>			
Review of bandings to be carried out and separate Task Group to be formed to focus on Resource Bases. High Needs Commissioned places summary presented and increase to places noted. List of applicable schools to be reviewed.	06/12/17	8 and 9	608/609
<b>High Needs Centrally Retained Clarification (budget codes and descriptors/Centrally Retained Budgets 2017-18)</b>			
Updated centrally retained budget information presented with updated descriptors following meetings of High Needs Task Group; proportion of budget spent to date to be presented at next meeting of Schools Forum with further information.	06/12/17	10 and 11	610/611
<b>Matters Arising</b>			
Peter Collins agreed as member of Schools Forum, representing academy schools.	17/01/18	3	617
<b>2017/18 DSG Monitoring Report</b>			
Schools Forum noted DSG projected overspend of £3.4M across all three blocks – Schools, Early Years and High Needs with projected £4.1m cumulative overspend in High Needs Block.	17/01/18	4	618
<b>Funding Formula Changes 2018/19</b>			
Consultation with schools closed, 41% response, majority in favour of Option 2. £165k additional funding available following transfer into CSSB agreed under agenda item 6; Forum endorsed SB Task Group recommendation to allocate this funding in proportion across the factors in the formula.	17/01/18	5	619
<b>Central Services Schools Block (CSSB)</b>			
Forum approved transfer of £124,000 for licences and £52,000 for historical items to CSSB from Schools Block, to cover partial shortfall in DfE funding. Updated report subsequently posted on SBC website following meeting	17/01/18	6	620
<b>Early Years</b>			
Forum noted EY Task Group recommendations regarding implementation of EYNFF for 2018-19	17/01/18	7	621
<b>Growth Fund 2017-18</b>			
Forum approved approximately £90,000 from 2017/18 underspend to part-fund Grove Academy 'ghost places' places. Forum agreed Growth Fund criteria for 2018/19, with AWPU rates based on 2018-19 formula.	17/01/18	8	622
<b>De-delegation Report</b>			
Maintained school members agreed de-delegation for SEBDOS Behaviour Support Service, subject to revised unit costs, to reflect rates for primary and secondary as agreed in December 2015.	17/01/18	9	623
<b>2017-18 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decision Log</b>			
Forum agreed appointment of Chair and Vice Chair be held at July 2018 meeting, prior to first meeting in the 2018-19 academic year.	17/01/18	12	626
<b>Confirmation of Indicative Budgets 2018-19</b>			
Schools Forum agreed to transfer funding as follows: £17,325 from HNB to the CSSB £100,045 from HNB to the CSSB for ongoing responsibilities £548,000 from HNB to the SB for PFI	06/03/18	5	632
<b>Early Years Block</b>			
The same level of activity and model for 2018-19 would be required to maintain a similar level of centrally retained spend. In principle, Schools Forum endorsed this and a detailed report would be presented at the next meeting for formal approval.	06/03/18	6	633
<b>PFI Update Report</b>			
The Schools Block contribution was confirmed as £297,000 for one academic year only, 2018-19 and would be reviewed for 2019-20	06/03/18	8	634

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A table would be produced to show where contributions had been made to the sum of £297,000.			
<b>High Needs Block Budget 2018-19</b>			
Members approved the centrally retained element for 2018-19 of £2.3m, which was a slight decrease on 2017-18.	06/03/18	9	635
<b>Membership</b>			
Kathy Perry from Mighty Acorns Nursery, was welcomed as the new PVI representative member.	05/07/18	1	640
The Chair thanked Helen Huntley (who was retiring at the end of the Summer Term) for her valuable contributions as both a member of Schools Forum and as a champion of children and young people with special needs.	05/07/18	1 & 11	640/652
<b>Annual DSG Report 2017-18</b>			
Schools Forum noted the comprehensive DSG annual report and requested this appear as an annual item on agendas	05/07/18	7	646
<b>Review of the Scheme for Financing Schools 2017-18</b>			
Schools Forum noted the consultation but requested that details of any licensed deficit scheme be circulated to Schools Forum prior to consultation	05/07/18	8	647
<b>Early Years Centrally Retained 2018-19</b>			
The details of the centrally retained Early Years funding for 2018-19 set out in the report were noted and lines of expenditure approved	05/07/18	9	648
<b>Update from Task Groups</b>			
Draft Terms of Reference for all three Task Groups were approved by Schools Forum	05/07/18	10	649
<b>Election of Chair and Vice Chair</b>			
<b>The current Chair of Schools Forum would stand down at the end of the academic year: John Constable was proposed and duly elected to Chair of Schools Forum with effect from 1 September 2018, for a term of two years.</b>	05/07/18	11	652
<b>Schools Forum Membership/appointment of Vice Chair</b>			
Noted that three members' terms of office due to finish 30 November 2018 and one further member had resigned.			
Forum agreed re-appointment of Jo Matthews as Special School/PRU Headteacher representative for a further year.			
Nominations to be sought from academy proprietors for the other three roles.			
One nomination for the role of Vice Chair and Nicky Willis, Executive Principal of Cippenham Primary School duly appointed for a two-year term.	10/10/18	4	656
<b>Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years</b>			
Following 5-16 Task Group meeting, consultation to run with local schools from 15 October - 5 November 2018 regarding two options to move towards NFF (National Funding Formula of either 50% or 75%. Comments from schools to be invited. Task Group to meet again on 13th November following outcome of consultation.	10/10/18	9	658
<b>Consultation results on the Scheme for Financing Schools and Licensed Deficit Scheme</b>			
LA to write into the Scheme that maintained schools will be involved in discussions.			
Schools Forum approved the Scheme for Financing Schools.	10/10/18	6	659