

SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM

SCHOOLS GROUP:

John Constable (Chair), Peter Collins, Philip Gregory, Ray Hinds, Val Haffrey, Kathleen Higgins, Navroop Mehat, Angela Mellish, Carol Pearce, Kathy Perry, Jon Reekie, Jo Rockall, Maggie Waller, Nicky Willis, Maxine Wood, Jamie Rockman, Coral Snowden and Neil Sykes

OBSERVERS:

Jo Matthews, Eddie Neighbour and Councillor Shabnum Sadiq

LOCAL AUTHORITY:

Domenico Barani, Cate Duffy, Michael Jarrett, Johnny Kyriacou, Neil Wilcox and John Wood

**DATE & TIME: WEDNESDAY, 15TH JANUARY, 2020 AT 8.00AM FOR 8.15AM
BEECHWOOD RESEARCH AND CONFERENCE CENTRE,
LONG READINGS LANE, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE, SL2 1QE**

AGENDA

Page

Apologies

1. 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.

2. Any Other Business
3. Update on Membership
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2019 **(Pages 1 - 6)**
5. Update on National/Local Funding Issues
6. Final 2020-21 DSG Settlement **(Pages 7 - 10)**
7. Schools Block 2020-21: Final Authority Proforma Tool (APT) and budget timeline
8. Central Schools Services Block 2020-21 **(Pages 11 - 16)**
9. Early Years Block 2020-21: including Centrally Retained and proposed formula **(Pages 17 - 20)**
10. 2019-20 DSG Budget monitoring report (all blocks) **(Pages 21 - 34)**
11. High Needs Place Change Notification
12. SEND Banding quarterly update
13. DSG Deficit Recovery Plan: DfE response and update **(Pages 35 - 38)**
14. Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years
15. Academies update
16. 2019-20 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log **(Pages 39 - 46)**

Slough Schools Forum- Meeting held on Tuesday, 12th November, 2019

Present: John Constable, Langley Grammar School (Chair)
Peter Collins, Slough & Eton Church of England Business and Enterprise College
Ray Hinds, Academy Secondary Sector
Kathleen Higgins, Beechwood Secondary School
Navroop Mehat, Wexham Court Primary School
Angela Mellish, St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School
Eddie Neighbour, Upton Court Grammar School (Observer)
Carol Pearce, Penn Wood Primary School
Kathy Perry, Mighty Acorns Day Nursery
Jon Reekie, Godolphin Infant School
Jo Rockall, Herschel Grammar School
Nicky Willis, Cippenham Primary School
Jamie Rockman, Haybrook College
Neil Sykes, Arbourvale School

Observers: Eddie Neighbour, Upton Court Grammar School

Officers: Catherine Cochran, Domenico Barani, John Wood and Cate Duffy

Apologies: Philip Gregory, Maggie Waller, Coral Snowden and Michael Jarrett

733. Declarations of Interest

Apologies received from: Phil Gregory, Michael Jarrett (SBC), Coral Snowden and Maggie Waller

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular John Wood, Interim Service Lead for Inclusion at Slough Borough Council. All those present introduced themselves.

There were no declarations of interest.

734. Any Other Business

Nothing was tabled.

735. Update on Membership

The Clerk informed the meeting that following due process Mrs Coral Snowden, Headteacher at Western House Academy, had been appointed unopposed to Schools Forum as an academy school representative.

It was noted that two terms of office were due to end in January. The members concerned would be approached to establish whether they wished to stand again, and the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

736. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 1 October 2019

The minutes of the Schools Forum meeting held on 1 October 2019 were agreed as a correct record, subject to deletion of a repeated introductory paragraph.

Matters Arising from those Minutes:

There were none.

8.20am: Angela Mellish arrived at the meeting

737. Update on National/Local Funding Issues

The meeting was given a verbal update that the teachers' pay and teachers' pension grant contributions would be paid separately from the School Block.

It was understood the pension grant would be for three years but as yet the amount was unknown. The rates were due to be published in spring 2020 and, if available, would be shared at the next meeting of Schools Forum.

In answer to questions from the floor it was noted that teachers' funding for special schools was as yet unknown, as were Pupil Premium rates for the next academic year: however, it was assumed this funding stream would continue.

Members were informed that changes to Sixth Form funding had been announced, with an increase of 4.7% on base rate and an additional £400 for each student taking two or more STEM subjects.

738. Growth Fund 2020-21

Schools Forum was asked to note an update on expenditure for the current year, approve additional underwriting for places at Grove Academy, review the allocation model for 2020/21, and to agree the maximum 2020-21 top slice from the DSG.

It was explained that although the birth rate in Slough was now falling the previous primary 'bulge' was moving through the school system at secondary level.

The allocations were based on AWPU funding, but it was pointed out that that the 2020/21 figures were provisional numbers and yet to be finalised. It was noted that the background information provided in the report had been shared with members in the past and was included for completeness.

Surplus school places were required to allow for intakes to the system, with children moving into Slough on a weekly basis. Where necessary, the LA would approach a school on a termly basis.

With regards to Grove Academy it was pointed out that Schools Forum had agreed, for the past two years, to support 50% of the underwriting. It was confirmed that monies were not returned from underwriting.

With regards to falling rolls, it was acknowledged it was an issue for some primary schools but only those rated 'good' or 'outstanding' schools could be supported through such a fund. It was noted that Marish had opened a bulge class at short notice; although there had been sufficient places in Year 5, there had been a shortage of places in other parts of Langley and this action was to avoid children

having to travel across the town. It was confirmed that no schools had requested falling rolls funding.

Appendix A of the report was highlighted: it was explained there were now fewer primary schools receiving Growth Fund allocations, with currently only Claycots and St Mary's affected but with an increasing number of secondary schools. The 2020/21 figures were estimates, with only Claycots still expanding.

A member asked how many empty places there currently were at primary. It was explained that Key Stage 2 was 'tight', particularly in Year 6 but Key Stage 1 had an increasing number of surplus places. As noted, the birth rate forecast was low; however, there was no need for a reduction programme and the LA was aware. Where necessary, modular buildings had been added at school sites. Inward migration was below its' peak but a number of new dwellings were being built in Slough. It was understood a figure of approximately 5,000 would be accommodated but it was difficult to predict how school places would be affected. It was pointed out that development could have an adverse effect on a school which would be outside their control. Cate Duffy confirmed she would be willing to discuss with any such primary school affected.

It was queried whether the work with the Admissions team would enable schools that were not full to apply to reduce their PAN for a bulge class. It was confirmed such a request would not need to go to consultation but would be referred back to Schools Forum.

8.35am: Neil Sykes arrived at the meeting

It was queried whether there would be a need to consider secondary bulge classes and, if so, which schools: it was acknowledged it was different dealing with bulge classes at secondary level. Further work was required on area-based planning and the pattern of demand across the town had changed.

It was confirmed the LA had agreed principles which needed to be met to attract Growth Fund: good quality schools, popular schools (with capacity) and ideally, schools which any child would want to attend. Schools had not been named.

It was suggested that a strategy was also required for post-16 within the next four years but it was pointed out that the LA did not have the same statutory duties for that age group. It was necessary to make the best use of the provision already available and to note that Arbour Vale was currently expanding its' secondary places. It was pointed out there was a link between growth and population in special schools but it was acknowledged there was a need for a detailed conversation regarding post-16 education.

Clarity was requested about the number of forms of entry at Grove Academy with plans to move from two form entry to four forms in 2020/21, given earlier discussions about falling rolls and surplus places in Reception and Key Stage 1. There was also an awareness of the DfE's requirements, and it was suggested this be raised with both the ESFA and at SASH. The LA acknowledged the situation regarding places had changed since the opening of Grove Academy.

A request was being made for an increase in the underwriting allocation for Grove Academy to £90,000 in the current year as the originally agreed £60,000 would leave a 'tight' carry forward: it was hoped with a carry forward of £58,000 from the current year it would be possible to roll forward approximately £100,000 the

following year. It was queried how the amount of £60,000 had increased to £90,000: it was explained this was due to having reduced the amount the previous year because of uncertainty and members queried how the figure was calculated. Nic Barani explained the mechanism used, which also included a timing issue. It was proposed if approval were given there should be clarification of how the figure was reached. Grove was guaranteed 240 places, with the LA agreeing to underwrite the gap which could be evidenced through the DSG. There also needed to be an understanding of which birth rates had fallen and there was no guarantee places would be needed in perpetuity. It was added that LAs did not have complete autonomy following the introduction of the free schools programme.

It was noted that declining numbers in schools were discussed through Places Strategy and it was suggested this issue should also be considered by the Partnership Board and Phase Groups.

Schools Forum:

APPROVED the Growth Fund top slice of £600,000 for 2020/21, giving an estimated underspend of £24000

and,

APPROVED the underwriting for Grove Academy 2019/20 at £90,000 (previous agreed value £60,000).

It was agreed that a Falling Rolls fund was not considered necessary at the current time.

The Chair thanked Tony Madden for his comprehensive report and the clarity regarding Grove Academy.

9.05am: Tony Madden left the meeting

739. Proposed Transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block

The proposed transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block had been discussed previously by Schools Forum and the issue had been consulted upon before the Autumn half-term 2019.

Schools Forum **NOTED** the response rate to the consultation which had been good, and that 26 (84% of the response) schools were in favour of Option 2.

The reason for the request made this year was the same as the previous year, in order to reduce in-year pressures on the High Needs Block.

Cate Duffy informed the meeting that if the transfer had not been approved by Schools Forum the LA had planned to apply to the DfE to action the transfer. However, the ESFA had advised of additional funding of approximately £2 million to ease the pressure on the High Needs Block which it was hoped would contain the Block in a balanced figure for 2020-21.

The LA anticipated the High Needs Block overspend for the current financial year would be in the region of £4 million, the following year was predicted to be £3 million, without the additional funding. Taking that funding into account the overspend would be approximately £1 million: these figures would be clearer for the

Schools Forum meeting due to be held in January 2020. It was pointed out there would still be a deficit even with a transfer from Schools Forum.

Schools Forum **REJECTED** the transfer application of 0.5% from Schools Block to the High Needs Block and **UPHELD** the outcome of the consultation.

It was confirmed that the LA would not apply to the DfE for this decision to be overturned.

The Chair thanked LA representatives for the information and explanations provided.

740. Schools Block 5-16 Formula Consultation Outcome

Nic Barani outlined the other element of the Schools Block 2020/21 consultation. It was explained that although the move towards the NFF was continuing, the ESFA had not given released clear details. It had been necessary to take this into consideration when modelling. The consultation had offered two options, a move to 65% or to 85%. Overall, schools were aware of the situation and had shown appreciation that the NFF was being introduced in stages.

Schools Forum **NOTED** the level of responses to the consultation and **RECOMMENDED** the LA follow the outcome of the consultation and finalise budgets based on an 85% move towards the NFF. LA representatives confirmed that Schools Forum recommendation would be carried forward.

The final APT would be shared with Schools Forum members at the next meeting. It was pointed out that this would still be provisional, but it was felt it would as close to the final figure as possible.

741. Scheme for Financing Schools

This item was applicable only to maintained school representatives.

Members were informed the LA had received a 41% response to their consultation, all of which had been in favour of accepting the Scheme for Financing Schools 2019/20.

9.15am: Cate Duffy left the meeting

It was noted that no major changes had been made. A list of amendments could be found in Appendix A, which included the addition of a process for accessing cash advances if a school were facing a deficit budget.

Following a request to present the Scheme for Financing Schools earlier in the year, Nic Barani agreed to review this for the future, dependent on when updates were received from the DfE.

Maintained school representatives, including one postal vote, **APPROVED** the changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools 2019/20, as circulated.

742. Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years

The 5-16 Task Group had met since the last meeting of Schools Forum. The Early Years and High Needs Task Groups had not met.

Those interested in information about the Early Years Task Group were advised to contact Michael Jarrett, Service Lead for Early Years and Prevention at the LA.

743. Academies Update

There were no academy conversions to report.

744. 2019/20 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log

Meeting dates within the 2019/20 Forward Agenda Plan were highlighted and the Key Decisions Log was noted for information.

745. Any Other Business

Nothing had been tabled.

(Note: The Meeting opened at 8.15am and closed at 9.20am)

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
15th January 2020

Directorate of Children, Learning and Skills

2020-21 Schools Budget Settlement Update

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Schools' Forum of the final 2020-21 budget settlement issued by the DfE and compare against the consultation data.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools' Forum **note** the final settlement and the reversal of the planned transfer of £0.5m from the High Needs Block.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 For the purposes of transparency.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Schools' Forum will note that in the previous two financial years, a transfer of £0.5m was authorised from the High Needs Block into the Schools Block to correct an in-balance within the Schools Block as a result of the baselining exercise undertaken in 2017-18.
- 4.2 The DfE has now confirmed, as part of the deficit recovery response, that the transfer is no longer required as it relates to PFI funding, which is currently fully funded by the DfE as targeted funding.
- 4.3 The funding arrangement will need to be reviewed in future years once the DfE confirm a more permanent solution to treating premises related costs under the National Funding Formula, which could see it being formularised.
- 4.4 The estimated Schools Block settlement saw the Primary Unit Funding (PUF) and Secondary Unit Funding (SUF) prudently uprated by 1.84% and used pupil data from schools and estimations, where schools had not provided this data. This has now been reconciled with the final settlement which is viewable over leaf.

5 FINAL SETTLEMENT

- 5.1 The PUF and SUF unit values were increased by around 2% against the 2019-20 settlement, slightly above the modelled increases.

SCHOOLS FORMULA FUNDING COMPARISON TABLES FOR 2020-21

<u>Estimated Settlement 2020.21</u>			<u>Final Settlement 2020.21</u>			<u>Unit Rate</u>			<u>Var Pupil Nos</u>			<u>Variance from funding rates</u>			<u>Variance from NoR</u>			<u>TOTAL</u>			
	Est Pupil Nos	Est Funding	Final Pupil Nos	Final Funding																	
PUF	16,643	70,144,902	16,768	£70,690,275	£4,215.78	125	£1.11	£18,400	£526,973												
SUF	10,990	62,617,986	11,173	£63,755,108	£5,706.43	183	£8.71	£95,698	£1,041,424												
	27,633	£132,762,888	27,941	£134,445,383				£114,098	£1,568,397												
Premises Growth		£2,240,493		£2,667,922																	
HNB Transfer		£1,882,073		£1,871,785																	
		£500,000		£0																	
		£4,622,566		£4,539,707																	
TOTAL SETTLEMENT		£137,385,454	£138,985,090		TOTAL SETTLEMENT			£138,985,090			TOTAL INCREASE/(DECREASE) over 2020-21 estimate			£1,599,635							
<u>Final Settlement 2019-20</u>			<u>Final Settlement 2020.21</u>			<u>Unit Rate</u>			<u>Var Pupil Nos</u>			<u>Variance from funding rates</u>			<u>Variance from NoR</u>			<u>TOTAL</u>			
PUF	16,707	£69,140,351	16,768	£70,690,275	£4,215.78	62	£77.25	£1,290,652	£259,271												
SUF	10,511	£58,806,733	11,173	£63,755,108	£5,706.43	662	£111.65	£1,173,571	£3,774,805												
	27,218	£127,947,084	27,941	£134,445,383				£2,464,223	£4,034,075												
Premises Growth		£2,185,126		£2,667,922																	
		£1,882,073		£1,871,785																	
		£4,067,198		£4,539,707																	
TOTAL SETTLEMENT		£132,014,282	£138,985,090		TOTAL SETTLEMENT			£138,985,090			TOTAL INCREASE/(DECREASE) over 2019-20 Settlement			£6,970,807							

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 N/A

7 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

7.1 Not applicable

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 Finance and Resources

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

8.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 N/A

Contact for further information

Domenico Barani

Group Accountant - Children and Schools

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SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM
15th January 2020

Directorate of Children, Learning and Skills

CSSB Budget Setting for 2020.21

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Forum about the services funded from the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) in 2020-21 and the approvals required by the Forum.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools Forum **agree** a budget transfer of £250,173 from the High Needs Block into the CSSB, should the final allocation for the CSSB prove insufficient to meet the commitments.
- 2.2 That Forum **agree** the following budget allocations within the CSSB as outlined below: (more detail can be found further down the report)
- Admissions
 - Servicing of Schools Forum
 - Education Welfare (Former ESG)
 - Asset management (Former ESG)
 - Statutory & Regulatory (Former ESG)
 - Contribution to combined budgets: LA Safeguarding Children's Board, Virtual School

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Schools Forum agreed to move £276,370 in 2018-19 and £255,000 in 2019-20 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 CSSB will start the new financial year with the same imbalance to the base budget. The ESFA has confirmed that they are unable to amend the base, providing this response, *'we will not be able to adjust your baseline at this point, you are able to manage changes by moving funding locally between blocks in accordance with the operational guidance. This position has not changed, as we cannot re-baseline without effectively affecting the NFF funding if we attempted to do so at this stage.'*
- 3.2 The Council sought Schools Forum approval on the 4th December 2018 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 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 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 pupil-led formula linked to the baselining exercise.
- 4.2 From 2020-21 the DfE will begin to reduce the element of funding received for historic commitments made prior to 2013-14. This is in line with their reforms to move to a fairer funding system. *"We do not believe it is fair to maintain significant difference in funding indefinitely between local authorities which reflect historic decisions". "In 2020-21, for those local authorities that receive it, historic commitments funding will be reduced by 20%, with a protection so that no authority loses an amount equivalent to more than 0.5% of its 2019-20 schools block allocation. We will continue to unwind this funding in future years, and will provide further detail in due course"* (National Funding Formula policy document 2020-21) page 15.
- 4.3 **The settlement of the CSSB for 2020-21 is £664,797** against commitments of £914,170, leaving a shortfall of £250,173.

5 CSSB BUDGET HEADS 2020-21

5.1 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.

5.2 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.

5.3 **LA Children's Safeguarding Board - £30,000**

Contributions to the Safeguarding function adds value to the work of the Slough Children's 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.

5.4 **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 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.

5.5 **Copyright Licences - £137,925**

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

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

5.6 **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 Multiagency safeguarding Hub.

5.7 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.

5.8 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. Please see the link below for further details of what this service and others may cover. Schools Funding Operational Guide 20/21p61

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-16-schools-funding-local-authority-guidance-for-2020-to-2021>

TABLE 1

With 20% reduction of funding for historic costs.						
Area	Service	Commitment	DSG Allocation	Variance	Contribution to balance CSSB	
Contribution to combined Budgets	LA Safeguarding Childrens Board	30,000				
Sub Total - Historical Commitment		30,000	62,400	-32,400		
Servicing of Schools Forum		53,055				
Admissions		178,100				
Copyright Licences		137,925				137,925
Education Welfare (Former ESG)		144,672				
Asset Management (Former ESG)		12,818				
Statutory Regulatory (Former ESG) Includes 100k Virtual School		358,400				112,248
Sub Total - Ongoing Commitment		884,970	602,397	282,573		250,173
Grand Total		914,970	664,797	250,173		250,173

5.9 All commitments remain the same as in 2019-20 with the exception to the Copyright licenses which has increased by around £5k.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 N/A

7 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

7.1 Not applicable

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 Finance and Resources

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

8.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 N/A

Contact for further information

Domenico Barani

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SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
15th January 2020

Directorate of Children, Learning and Skills

Early Years Centrally Retained Funds 2020-21

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise and propose to Schools' Forum the planned use of centrally retained funds across the Early Years Block for financial year 2020-21.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools' Forum **review** and **agree** the use of centrally retained funds across the Early Years Block, which is to be set at 5% of the 2, 3 and 4 year – old funding allocation.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 In-line with current regulations, as described under 5.2 of the Early Years entitlements: local authority funding of providers Operational guide for 2020-21, local authorities are required to pass-through 95% of their 3 and 4 year - old funding from the government to early years providers, leaving a maximum of 5% of that funding to support central functions. As with the previous year, the LA is seeking to maximise the use of this allowance, which is broken down further on within the report.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The 5% remaining expenditure can be used to support:
- Centrally retained funding (for central services or services in-kind, including special educational needs and disability (SEND) services),
 - Transfer of any funding to 2- year-olds,
 - Any extra hours that local authorities choose to fund in addition to the government's hours for 3- and 4- year olds,
 - Any funding movement out of the Early Years block.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The provisional settlement for financial year is £14.349m, which is predicated on Jan 19 census data. The tables overleaf illustrate the calculations to derive the centrally retained budgets and the proposed use of them for 2020-21 reflecting the most up to date settlement provided by the DfE. Note that EYPP, MNS, DAF and 2 Year Old funding are not included in the pass through calculation; however, under section 4 of the Operational guidance, it stipulates that there is currently no regulatory requirement to pass through a set amount of the government's funding to providers for the delivery of 2 Year

Old entitlements. Therefore it has been treated in the same manner as the 3-4 year old funding.

- 5.2 Budgets are provisional and are therefore subject to change. A revised settlement will be provided in Jul- 20, when the Jan-20 census has been verified. This may result in changes to the level of centrally retained funds available +/-.

Initial funding allocation for universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds (£s)	Initial funding allocation for additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds (£s)	Initial funding allocation for 2 year old entitlement (£s)	Total eligible for top-slice
£m	£m	£m	£m
9.659	2.551	1.284	13.494

Total provisional Central Budget 2020.21

0.483	0.128	0.064	0.675
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Early Years Central Budget	Base Allocation 2019.20	Proposed Allocation 2020.21	Description
Early Years Strategic Financial Support	£80,000	£78,811	Financial contribution for the budget overview / management by DCS, Service Lead and Strategic Finance Officer.
Central Early Years Expenditure	£69,800	£68,763	Statutory duty for a child with suspected or diagnosed SEND; managing referrals across the sector and delivering identified programmes and packages of support.
Early Years Team Contribution detailed below:			
Quality Care & Learning & Advisory Teachers	£281,110	£276,932	Statutory duty to provide support to all new providers, mandatory training, support and challenge settings receiving an Ofsted outcome of Inadequate (FIPP). Additional non- statutory duties: Bristol Standard Quality Improvement Scheme, promotion of self - evaluation and action planning through the Partnership Improvement Plan and regular QT involvement in settings.

2 year funding, 3 & 4 year old funding and other statutory responsibilities	£211,990	£208,215	Statutory duty securing free early education places; pass through of funding to all providers; the promotion of partnership working including flexibility of provision; compliance work to ensure providers offer entitlements appropriately, in- line with statutory guidance.
Littledown School	£42,000	£42,000	Payment to Littledown school for a range of behaviour support services.
Sub TOTAL	£684,900	£674,720	
Early Years Adaptations/Practical Support	£50,000	£50,000	A central resource to enable providers to access practical equipment/support in order to enable children with SEND to continue to access their entitlement/s.
Grand Total	£734,900	£724,720	£10,180 less funding for 2020-21

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 N/A

7 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

7.1 Not applicable

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 Finance and Resources

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

8.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 N/A

Contact for further information

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SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
15th January 2020

Directorate of Children, Learning and Skills

DSG Budget Monitoring Report 2019-20

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This paper provide Schools Forum (SF) with the latest allocation of the DSG provided by the DfE and an update on the latest budget monitoring position for each block within the DSG.
- 1.2 To advise Schools Forum on the latest DSG funding allocation provided by the DfE and the budget monitoring position for each block for financial year 2019-20.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That forum make **note** of the financial position and **approve** any deficits be rolled forward into the new financial year. Any deficit balances rolled forward will have first call on the next years settlement.

3 High Level overview of the DSG for 2019-20.

- 3.1 The ESFA issued the settlement data for the DSG in November 2019. The table below demonstrates the breakdown of the allocation between the element that will be administered by the Local Authority and the proportion that will be recouped by the DfE for academies. It also shows transfers between blocks that have been agreed at Schools' Forum.
- 3.2 The latest DSG allocations for 2019-20 are highlighted below. Please note that cash received (income) from the ESFA is denoted as a negative value. The positive values reflect the planned payments/transfers within each block.

CASH SETTLEMENT				
Block	DSG Settlement Before Recoupment £m	Recoupment £m	Agreed Transfers £m	Net Budget £m
Schools	-132.014	96.313	-0.500	-36.201
Early Years	-14.166	0.000	0.000	-14.166
High Needs	-23.432	6.934	0.755	-15.743
Central School Services	-0.654	0.000	-0.255	-0.909
TOTAL	-170.266	103.247	0.000	-67.020

	Net Budget £m	Projection £m	Variance £m
DSG Support Grants	-6.624	-6.624	0.000
TOTAL	-6.624	-6.624	0.000

3.3 The initial 2019-20 allocation for Early Years' was based on the January 2018 census. The final adjustment to this allocation was made in July 2019 and is calculated as a weighted average of 5/12ths of the January 2018 census and 7/12ths of the January 2019 census. The ESFA recouped £0.246m in July 2019 for the overfunding of Universal and Extended Entitlement in 2018-19. This was because the uptake was less than anticipated. It was reported in the DSG outturn paper to Schools' Forum that the carry forward for 2018-19 was (£0.902m) but was likely to be reduced by a similar amount to that recouped in 2017-18. This means that the finalised end of year position was (£0.656m), which is shown in the table overleaf.

3.4 The table beneath shows the changes to the Early Years budget for 2019.20. The ESFA recouped £0.426m of funding based on reduced uptake. The final allocation for 2019-20 will be confirmed in July 2020.

	Universal Entitlement for 3-4 Year Olds £m	Extended entitlement for 3-4 Year Olds £m	2 Year Old Funding £m	EYPP £m	DAF £m	MNS £m	Total Allocation £m
Jan 19 Settlement	10.058	2.257	1.381	0.069	0.055	0.772	14.592
Jul 19 Settlement	9.527	2.516	1.267	0.073	0.055	0.728	14.166
Adjustment	-0.531	0.259	-0.114	0.004	0.000	-0.044	-0.426

4 DSG Projected Forecast

4.1 It is forecast that in 2019-20 the DSG will overspend by **£4.929m** with the cumulative overspend amounting to an estimated **£12.37m**. The variance is wholly attributable to the High Needs Block which is expected to overspend by **£4.893m** in 2019-20 and **£13.193m** cumulatively. This deficit has accumulated over the past 4 years. The table below sets out the forecast for each block.

Block	Pre - Adjusted Brought Forward Balances £m	In - Year Adjustments £m	Adjusted opening Balances £m	Net Budget 2019-20 £m	Projection £m	In- Year Forecast Variance £m	Forecast Carry Forward to 2020-21 £m
Schools	-0.221	0.000	-0.221	36.201	36.119	-0.082	-0.303
Early Years	-0.902	0.246	-0.656	14.166	14.275	0.109	-0.547
High Needs	8.300	0.000	8.300	15.743	20.022	4.893	13.193
Central School Service	0.018	0.000	0.018	0.909	0.876	-0.033	-0.015
TOTAL	7.195	0.246	7.441	67.020	71.293	4.887	12.328

5 Schools Block

5.1 The Schools' Block contains money received from the DfE to fund Individual School Budgets and is based on an annual allocation driven by specific national formula and distributed to schools via local formula. For 2019-20 the council is expected to receive **£ 36.201m** as per the most recent settlement updates. This allocation is net of academy recoupment. An in-year underspend of **(£0.082m)** is currently forecast for the Growth Fund, which is due to the actual levels of expansion and bulge classes being lower than anticipated. The expected carry forward into 2020-21 is **(£0.303m)**. The latest summary is shown in the table below:

Schools Block	Budget 2019-20 £m	Projection 2019-20 £m	Variance
Balance b/fwd	0.000	-0.221	-0.221
B/fwd Total	0.000	-0.221	-0.221
<u>Receipts</u>			
DSG Settlement	-132.014	-132.014	0.000
Block Transfer	-0.500	-0.500	0.000
Academy Recoupment	96.313	96.313	0.000
Income Total	-36.201	-36.201	0.000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Maintained Primary Schools Budget	27.439	27.439	0.000
Maintained Secondary Schools Budget	7.180	7.180	0.000
Growth Fund	0.800	0.718	-0.082
Growth not recouped	0.282	0.282	0.000
Block transfer funding to Maintained Schools	0.106	0.106	0.000
Block transfer funding to Academy Schools	0.394	0.394	0.000
Expenditure Total	36.201	36.119	-0.082
In Year Variance	-0.000	-0.082	-0.082
Bal C/fwd to 2020.21	-0.000	-0.303	-0.303

5.2 Support Grants

The table below breaks down the additional DSG support grants the council receives on behalf of its maintained schools, which it fully passes through.

DSG Support Grants	Budget 2019/20 £m	Projection 2019/20 £m	Variance £m
<u>Receipts</u>			
Pupil Premium	-2.254	-2.254	0.000
Sixth form funding	-1.744	-1.744	0.000
UIFSM	-0.964	-0.964	0.000
PE & Sport Grant	-0.215	-0.215	0.000
Teachers' Pay Grant	-0.493	-0.493	0.000
Teachers' Pension Grant	-0.954	-0.954	0.000
Income Total	-6.624	-6.624	0.000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Pupil Premium	2.254	2.254	0.000
Sixth form funding	1.744	1.744	0.000
UIFSM	0.964	0.964	0.000
PE & Sport Grant	0.215	0.215	0.000
Teachers 'Pay Grant	0.493	0.493	0.000
Teachers' Pension Grant	0.954	0.954	0.000
Expenditure Total	6.624	6.624	0.000
Variance	0.000	0.000	0.000

5.21 Pupil Premium

This grant provides additional funding to schools to support disadvantaged pupils to raise attainment and to support children with parents in the regular armed forces.

5.22 6th Form Funding

The grant funds institutions to deliver study programmes to their pupils. The funding rate for each student is determined by the study programme based on their planned hours. National funding rates range from £2,133 to £4,000 per student.

5.23 UIFSM – Universal Infant Free School Meals

The grant supports schools in delivering the legal requirement to offer free school meals which meet the school food standard, to all their reception, year 1 and year 2 pupils. Subject to meeting this legal requirement, the funds may be used for the educational benefit of schools. Meals taken by an eligible pupil will attract £2.30.

5.24 **PE and Sports Grant**

The premium must be used to fund additional and sustainable improvements to the provision of PE and sport, for the benefit of primary aged pupils, within the year that the grant is awarded to develop and encourage a healthy and active lifestyle.

5.25 **Teachers' Pay Grant**

The grant was first announced in July 2018 by the Secretary of State for Education. It was introduced to provide additional funding to schools to support them with the cost of the teachers' pay award.

5.26 **Teachers' Pension Grant**

The DfE have calculated the increased cost of employer contributions to schools from Sept 19 – Mar 20 to be £848 million. The grant is based on pupil numbers, for maintained schools and institutions supporting high needs, funding is based on number of places.

6 Early Years Block

6.1 The Early Years Block contains money received from the DfE to fund free early learning and education in all settings, including the private, voluntary and independent sectors (PVI's). Budgets are updated monthly and termly based on the revised census data for those settings. For 2019/20 the council is expecting to receive **£14.166m** as per the most recent settlement update.

6.2 Currently, the Early Years' Block is forecast to carry forward around **£0.547m** into 2020/21 of which £0.656m relates to prior years' underspend. It was reported within the DSG outturn paper that the cumulative EY underspend was £0.902m, but it was highlighted that the ESFA would likely claw back similar amounts as per the previous years. The ESFA clawed back £0.246m in July 19 therefore substantiating the £0.656m brought forward balance.

6.3 Due to the disparity between the funding mechanism, which will see the final 2019.20 settlement being predicated on 5/12^{ths} of the Jan 19 census and 7/12^{ths} of the Jan 20 census, and the payments made to the sector, which are made either on actual monthly or termly participation rates, the final outturn becomes difficult to forecast.

6.4 However, we can use trend analyses to best project onward activity. The spring term forecast has been estimated on the previous 2 years trend, which has been factored into the forecast and explained further on within the report. Any increase/decrease in cost and funding as a result of actual participation rates will either increase/reduce our projected outturn and settlement. The budget monitoring summary table can be viewed over leaf.

Early Years Block	Budget 2019/20 £m	Projection 2019/20 £m	Variance
<u>Income</u>			
DSG Settlement	-14.166	-14.166	0.000
Income Total	-14.166	-14.166	0.000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Maintained Nursery Schools			
2 Year Old Funding	0.238	0.238	0.000
3-4 Year Old Universal Entitlement	1.456	1.406	-0.050
3-4 Year Old Extended Entitlement	0.385	0.385	0.000
Deprivation	0.022	0.022	0.000
Maintained Nursery Supplement	0.728	0.728	0.000
EYPP	0.018	0.018	0.000
Sub Total	2.848	2.798	-0.050
<u>Primary Schools</u>			
2 Year Old Funding	0.052	0.052	0.000
3-4 Year Old Universal Entitlement	3.857	3.857	0.000
3-4 Year Old Extended Entitlement	0.356	0.356	0.000
Deprivation	0.045	0.045	0.000
EYPP	0.032	0.032	0.000
Sub Total	4.342	4.342	0.000
<u>Special Schools</u>			
2 Year Old Funding	0.000	0.000	0.000
3-4 Year Old Universal Entitlement	0.000	0.000	0.000
Sub Total	0.000	0.000	0.000
<u>PVI Sector</u>	6.069	6.339	0.270
Sub Total	6.069	6.339	0.270
EYPP	0.023	0.023	0.000
Growth	0.117	0.088	-0.029
Disability Access Fund	0.055	0.001	-0.054
Sub Total	0.194	0.112	-0.083
<u>Central Budgets</u>			
Early Years Adaptations/ Practical Support	0.050	0.001	-0.049
Early Years Strategic Financial support	0.080	0.080	0.000
Early Years Behaviour Support Services	0.042	0.041	-0.001
Central Early Years Expenditure	0.070	0.070	0.000
Early Years Team Contribution	0.472	0.493	0.021
Central Expenditure Total	0.714	0.685	-0.028
Projected End of Year Variance	0.000	0.109	0.109
Carry forward from 2018/19	0.000	-0.656	-0.656
Cumulative Surplus/Deficit	0.000	-0.547	-0.547

6.5 **Forecast position and reason for variance.**

Based on the current settlement, the Early Years’ block is likely to overspend by **£0.11m**, which is a combination of increased activity within the sector, driving up cost, and underspends within discreet areas. Whilst additional activity should be met with additional funding, we will not know the quantum of funding until Jul 20.

6.6 Data analysis shows that within the PVI Sector, there has been an increase in participation rates against the baseline of around 50,000 hours (4.5%), as demonstrated in the table beneath.

PVI Baseline Hours	1,111,965
Actual and Projected Hours	1,162,685
Increase/decrease	50,721

This increase in hours quantifies the projected overspend within the PVI sector.

6.7 MNS and schools have experienced growth over the baseline which is demonstrated within the table beneath of around 24,000 hours (2%). The actual data captured includes Autumn and Summer data, and a projection for the Spring term. It is envisaged that we will be recouping around 9,300 hours in Mar 20, which equates to around £0.050m. Netted off against the additional funding provided to date, gives an estimated £0.13m of additional funding over the baseline for the financial year.

Schools and Nurseries Baseline Hours	1,144,036
Actual and Projected Hours	1,168,124
Increase/decrease	24,088

6.8 Growth

Growth funds additional hours above the budgeted hours which are calculated when providers submit their monthly and termly returns. Conversely, growth is replenished when participation rates (hours) are lower than budgeted. At the end of the financial year, the EYB will show an estimated over/underspend which is finalised in the following July once the ESFA has conducted its final census. Logically, we expect a positive adjustment which will offset the projected overspend. Within the growth budget line is a contingency allowance of £0.088m which will be made payable before the end of the financial year.

6.9 Disability Access Fund **underspend of £0.054m**

As with previous years, this earmarked funding is forecast to underspend. The Early Years’ Service has actively promoted DAF funding across the early years sector, however, as in previous years the take up is lower than the service would like. The Service Lead has shared the take up challenges with peers across the region and other councils describe similar challenges.

The service is proposing to explore a different approach in 20/21 based on other LA examples where resource is pooled in settings for staff training / resources where a child attends and is eligible for DAF funding.

- 6.10 **Early Years Adaptations/ Practical Support – underspend of £0.049m.**
The Early Years' Service has promoted the use of EIG across the sector and settings/providers are becoming more accustomed to its use. Sharing case study examples confirms the scope of the funding. The service will continue to work with the sector to maximise the use of this grant.

7 High Need Block

7.1 National Picture

Most local authorities within the UK are experiencing financial pressures within this area, with nearly all authorities confident that spending will continue to increase into the New Year and beyond.

- 7.2 Earlier this year, the LGA undertook a spending review corroborating data from surveys and reviewing S251 data which revealed that the cumulative national deficit could rest between £1.2bn and £1.6bn by 2021. If we include the Government's additional funding promise for 2021 of £750m, we could still see a national deficit in the region of £450m and £850m.

- 7.3 After analysing the S251 budget data for 2019.20 locally, it was revealed that of the 151 authorities, 36 recorded a break even position but 65 recorded a DSG deficit to be carried forward into 2020.21, of which, 32 were required to submit a DSG recovery plan to the DfE, (due to their cumulative DSG deficit being greater than 1%). The cumulative DSG deficit recorded on the 2019.20 S251 was £234m, excluding schools balances.

7.4 Local Position.

The High Needs block is projected to overspend by an estimated **£13.2m** by the end of 2019.20 which is 56% of the total settlement. £8.3m relates to the cumulative deficit balance from previous years which have been rolled forward meaning that the projected in-year overspend is **£4.9m** above budget.

- 7.5 It is to be noted that £0.7m of invoices relating to the previous financial year were not accrued for; therefore the true 2018.19 end of year position rises from £2.86m to £3.56m, and the cumulative position from £8.3m to £9m.

- 7.6 By reviewing the accounting position, the true in-year projection is £4.2m above budget, compared with £3.56m, showing a year- on - year worsening of £0.64m.

- 7.7 The table over leaf shows the full details of the latest position which is predicated on the actual position, not the accounting position.

High Needs Block	Revised Budget 2019.20	Projected Outturn 2019.20 (Pre savings)	Variance	In- year savings	Variance (Post Savings)
Income					
High Needs DSG	-16.498	-16.498	0.000	0.000	0.000
Schools Block Transfer	0.000	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.500
Central Block Transfer	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.000
Income Total	-16.243	-15.743	0.500	0.000	0.500
Expenditure					
High Needs Funding In Borough	10.698	12.058	1.360	0.000	1.360
Alternative Provision	0.659	0.659	0.000	0.000	0.000
Early Years Inclusion	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.093
PVI EY Top up	0.200	0.154	-0.046	0.000	-0.046
Independent Special Schools	0.874	2.215	1.342	0.000	1.342
Post 16	0.600	1.058	0.458	0.000	0.458
Out-borough	0.730	1.943	1.213	0.000	1.213
Sub-Total High Needs Funded	13.761	18.181	4.420	0.000	4.420
Autism	0.186	0.124	-0.062	0.000	-0.062
Hard to Place Pupils	0.267	0.267	0.000	0.000	0.000
Sensory Impairment	0.722	0.772	0.050	0.000	0.050
Strategy for SEN & Inclusion	0.182	0.182	0.000	0.000	0.000
High Needs Inclusion	0.946	0.961	0.015	0.000	0.015
Sub-Total Centrally Retained	2.302	2.306	0.004	0.000	0.004
Non controllable	0.180	0.150	-0.031	0.000	-0.031
Budget shortfall	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Sub-Total Other	0.180	0.150	-0.031	0.000	-0.031
Projected End of Year Variance	-0.000	4.893	4.893	0.000	4.893
Brought Forward from 2018.19					8.300
Cumulative (Surplus)/Deficit					13.193

7.8 Reasons for Variance

7.81 Schools Block Transfer £0.5m overspend.

Relates to the base-lining exercise in 2017.18 and the subsequent movement of funds from the HNB into the SB. Details of this can be found within previous forum papers.

7.82 High Needs Funding – In Borough (Top-up funding) £1.36m overspend.

The service has seen a general increase in pupils with an EHCP as well as a mixture of current pupils with increased needs. However, a large share of the overspend now and into future years has arisen from a re-banding exercise for pupils within Arbour Vale Special School, which has resulted in increased top-up packages for 127 pupils (thus far) costing £0.94m above budget.

Top-up funding costs have also risen by £0.25m due to the admission of 30 additional pupils within the school – some of these are considered to be part of the planned expansion of 40 places. It should be noted that the cost of placing these pupils within the Independent sector, or Out of Borough would likely see costs above this level.

7.83 Early Years Inclusion £0.093m overspend.

There has been an incremental increase in the referrals to panel to access this level of funding. This mirrors the increases across the HNB, regional and national highs. However, it should be noted that there has been an underspend within the PVI EY Top up budget and as these two areas of need overlap, further work is needed to reconcile the two trends.

7.84 Independent Special Schools £1.342m overspend.

£0.14m of the above overspend includes prior years costs not accrued for. The projected overspend is due mainly to higher unit costs for around one third of the number of placements, with around two thirds of the total placements being of comparable cost to those in Slough. The table beneath compares spend and learner data over the past three years.

Independent Sector						
FY	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Projection £m	Variance £m	No of Learners	Average Cost £m
2017.18	0.800	1.439		0.639	48	0.030
2018.19	0.800	1.975		1.175	61	0.032
2019.20	0.874		2.215	1.341	48	0.046

7.85 Whilst pupil numbers have reduced within this sector, the cost per place is higher, on average by £0.014m and £0.016m respectively, over the previous two years. The tables below demonstrate the flow of pupils over the past two years between cost brackets within the independent sector.

Independent Sector	
Placement Cost Ranges	No of Pupils at Mar 18/19
£0 - £5,000	7
£5,001 - £20,000	14
£20,001 - £50,000	30
£50,001 - £75,000	8
£75,001 - £100,000	2
+£100,000	0
TOTAL	61

Independent Sector	
Placement Cost Ranges	No of Pupils at Mar 19/20
£0 - £5,000	0
£5,001 - £20,000	6
£20,001 - £50,000	26
£50,001 - £75,000	10
£75,001 - £100,000	5
+£100,000	1
TOTAL	48

7.86 Post 16 - £0.458m overspend.

£0.161m of the above overspend includes prior years costs not accrued for. The overspend has occurred due to placement numbers and cost above budget. The table beneath compares spend and learner data over the past three years.

Post 16						
FY	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Projection £m	Variance £m	No of Learners	Average Cost £m
2017.18	0.132	0.672		0.539	76	0.009
2018.19	0.132	0.763		0.631	75	0.010
2019.20	0.600	0.000	1.058	0.458	88	0.012

7.87 The sector has experienced an increase in learners, which is expected both locally and nationally, a causal effect of changing legislation which increased the age cap of service provision to 25. It is expected that costs will increase over the medium term with a primary mitigating factor being the need for additional government funding. The tables over leaf demonstrate the flow of pupils over the past two years between cost brackets within the Post 16 sector.

Post 16	
Placement Cost Ranges	No of Pupils at Mar 18/19
£0 - £5,000	44
£5,001 - £20,000	20
£20,001 - £50,000	8
£50,001 - £75,000	3
£75,001 - £100,000	0
+£100,000	0
TOTAL	75

Post 16	
Placement Cost Ranges	No of Pupils at Mar 19/20
£0 - £5,000	44
£5,001 - £20,000	32
£20,001 - £50,000	9
£50,001 - £75,000	3
£75,001 - £100,000	0
+£100,000	0
TOTAL	88

7.88 Out of Borough £1.213m overspend.

£0.396m of the above overspend includes prior years costs not accrued for. The tables beneath demonstrate that the main causes for the overspend relate to costs above budget, an increase in the number of learners and an increased average cost per placement.

OB Mainstream						
FY	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Projection £m	Variance £m	No of Learners	Average Cost £m
2018.19	0.130	0.281		0.151	50	0.006
2019.20	0.130		0.450	0.320	51	0.009

OB Special Schools						
FY	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Projection £m	Variance £m	No of Learners	Average Cost £m
2018.19	0.418	0.997		0.579	50	0.020
2019.20	0.600		1.493	0.893	58	0.026

Combined

OB Mainstream & Special						
FY	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Projection £m	Variance £m	No of Learners	Average Cost £m
2018.19	0.548	1.278		0.730	100	0.013
2019.20	0.730		1.943	1.213	109	0.018

7.9 Centrally Retained Functions

7.91 Autism £0.062m underspend, which is in relation to staff vacancies.

7.92 Sensory Impairment £0.010m underspend

Joint Arrangement providing services to support pupils within schools with sensory needs (HI,VI) and Berkshire Consortium providing teaching visits via a discrete Berkshire Sensory Impairment SLA and BHFT Consortium.

7.93 SALT Services £0.060m overspend.

A new agreement has been reached with Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT) to provide SALT services. Whilst this service is being rolled out, SALT services are still being provided by other providers that are costed above budget. It is expected that these costs will taper away once the BHFT are providing SALT support to all schools.

7.94 High Needs Inclusion – overspend £0.015m

Due to increased Education Resource Services support for children looked after.

8 Central Schools Service Block

8.1 The expected forecast for CSSB is an in - year underspend of (£0.033m), and cumulative underspend of (£0.015m) itemised within the table below.

CSSB	Budget 2019/20 £m	Projection 2019/20 £m	Variance
B/fwd from 2018.19	0.000	0.018	0.018
B/fwd Total	0.000	0.018	0.018
<u>Receipts</u>			
DSG Settlement	-0.654	-0.654	0.000
Block Transfer (from HNB)	-0.255	-0.255	0.000
Income Total	-0.909	-0.909	0.000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Servicing of schools forum	0.053	0.053	0.000
Admissions	0.178	0.170	-0.008
Education Welfare (Former ESG)	0.145	0.145	0.000
Asset Management (Former ESG)	0.013	0.013	0.000
Statutory & Regulatory (Former ESG)	0.258	0.258	0.000
Licenses	0.132	0.158	0.026
VAT Claim - Licenses 2019-20	0.000	-0.026	-0.026
VAT Claim - Licenses 2018-19	0.000	-0.025	-0.025
LA Safeguarding Board	0.030	0.030	0.000
VH	0.100	0.100	0.000
Expenditure Total	0.909	0.876	-0.033
In Year Variance	0.000	-0.033	-0.033
Bal C/fwd to 2020.21	0.000	-0.015	-0.015

8.2 **Admissions – underspend of (£0.008m).**
The underspend is owed to staffing efficiencies.

8.3 VAT – underspend of (£0.025m). VAT on copyright licenses has yet to be claimed for 2018-19, which was cause for the deficit carried forward.

9 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 N/A

10 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

10.1 Not applicable

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

11.1 Monitoring Officer

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

11.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Finance and Resources
The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

11.3 Access Implications
There are no access implications.

12 CONSULTATION

12.1 N/A

Contact for further information

Domenico Barani
Group Accountant - Children and Schools
Domenico.barani@slough.gov.uk

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Service Lead – Early Years and Prevention
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Education & Skills
Funding Agency

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30 October 2019

Sent via email: Domenico.Barani@slough.gov.uk
Vikram.Hansrani@slough.gov.uk

Dear Domenico and Vikram

Thank you for submitting your Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) recovery plan on 2 August 2019.

Due to the announcement at the end of August of additional funding for schools and high needs, we have delayed responding to authorities' plans until we were able to give more detail about funding for individual authorities in 2020-21. Provisional allocations have now been published on 11 October 2019. Your allocations can be found [here](#). We will let authorities know as soon as we can in 2020 about likely high needs allocations for 2021-22 and 2022-23.

We have now had an opportunity to review your recovery plan and we will be contacting you shortly to arrange a joint visit with representatives from the department's Funding and Special Educational Needs teams to support you to develop your recovery plan further. We have a number of queries, as detailed in our feedback below, that we would like to discuss in that meeting and would expect you to address these prior to our visit. We appreciate the additional funding may also have an impact on your plans, which we would like to review in this visit. We will be in touch soon to arrange a convenient time.

You have provided a 3-year recovery plan with a deficit which significantly increases year on year to £14.993m by 2021-22. We have noted your plan does not include a transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2019-20 as this was rejected by the schools forum; however, you have assumed future transfer requests of 0.5% in both 2020-21 and 2021-22. Your plan also assumes continuing additional grant funding across all years which we assess to be reasonable in light of the funding allocations which have been subsequently announced.

You have identified only one saving which extends beyond 2019-20 (S1) which corresponds with the rising deficit forecast. In response to our query regarding a lack of savings, you have advised your forecast assumes no future growth as the service is expecting fewer statutory assessments. Overall, we have concerns that if you are unable to plan any savings proposals then your plan will lack a long term, strategic focus. When we come to visit, we would like to further discuss and identify what your savings are and are

interested to understand what is driving the pressures contributing to the increase in your deficit. We appreciate that you may find this a challenging task and would like to offer our full support to enable you to devise a more strategic and realistic plan over the coming months.

You have advised you currently do not forecast the number of children and young people (CYP) with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) based on 2019 figures and are therefore unable to provide estimated numbers for 2020 and 2021. This is a concern to us as we deem that without forecasting these numbers it would be impossible to devise a strategic plan to address the deficit. Please can you revisit this and be prepared to provide estimated EHCP data for 2020 and 2021 when we visit.

We have assessed that your overall savings proposals are limited, relatively minor and short-term cost-cutting measures rather than long-term and with a strategic focus. We are also concerned that several savings proposals do not appear to relate to your identified pressures. We would have expected to see a projection of corresponding cost savings alongside your decreasing or stabilising pressures. For example, within your first pressure (P1) you have identified costs due to the increase in pupils accessing both Independent Specialist Schools (ISS) and Out of Borough Placements (OOB). As this pressure begins to reduce by 2020-21 and stabilises in 2021-22 due to the proposed expansion of provision (up to 40 places at Arbour Vale School) over the next 3 years, we would expect to see projections of the cost savings associated with this decrease. However, your plan does not assume a corresponding saving and we would be interested to understand how you have calculated this pressure. It would be helpful if you could provide both a breakdown of these costs and further detailed narrative when we visit.

Within your third pressure (P3) you have advised that this pressure is due to an increase in demand and complexity of need in CYP with EHCPs. We have noted this pressure continues at the same amount across your plan and we would be interested to understand how you have calculated these figures.

We note that you have stated that you have an ongoing pressure (P4) relating to the baselining exercise. We understand that you were using £548k from central funds to fund a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) but this transfer has since ceased. You have advised that you have since been moving this funding out of your High Needs Block (HNB) on a yearly basis to transfer across to your Schools Block. Funding is provided for additional costs associated with PFI contracts through the National Funding Formula (NFF) within the Schools Block. We do not understand why there has been a need to move funding from either the Central Services Schools Block (CSSB) or the HNB for PFI. We would ask you to consider if this is a real pressure as we see no reason for this transfer continuing.

Due to the additional funding in high needs we expect that the need to transfer funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block will not be required. We have noted within your recovery plan you have provided assumed transfer amounts of 0.5% to the High Needs Block from 2020-21 to 2021-22 if approved by your schools forum. However, we believe that the additional funding you have been allocated will now meet your planning for

more income without the requirement to move money away from schools and you will want to remodel your recovery plan accordingly.

If you have any queries about this letter or would like any further discussion or support with your recovery plan please get in touch with us at

Financial.MANAGEMENT@education.gov.uk.

We appreciate this has been a new process – Slough were one of thirty-two local authorities submitting a recovery plan this year and we are keen to ensure that the process is as clear as possible.

If you wish to provide feedback on the process, please contact us via the Financial Management mailbox as above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owen Jenkins', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Owen Jenkins

**Deputy Director, Funding Directorate
Education and Skills Funding Agency**

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**Slough Schools' Forum: 2019/20
Forward Agenda Plan**

Meeting 4 –Tuesday 3 March 2020

No.	Description	Lead
1	Update on National/Local Funding issues	Nic Barani
2	Confirmation of Schools budgets 2020/21	Nic Barani
3	High Needs Places and Update on HNB 2020/21	
4	Update on centrally retained items: all blocks 2020/21	Nic Barani
5	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years	
6	Academies Update	
7	2019/20 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log	

Meeting 5 – Wednesday -13 May 2020

No.	Description	Lead
1	Update on National/Local Funding issues	Nic Barani
2	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years	
3	Academies Update	
4	2019/20 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log	

Meeting 6 – Wednesday 1 July 2020

No.	Description	Lead
1	Update on National/Local Funding issues	Nic Barani
2	Update on growth allocations and issues	Tony Madden
3	Annual DSG Report 2019/20 including impact	Nic Barani
4	Review of the Scheme for Financing Schools 2019/20	Nic Barani
5	Early Years Update	Michael Jarrett
6	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years (verbal) To include annual review of Terms of Reference	
7	Schools Forum Membership	
8	Academies Update	
9	2020/21 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log	

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Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2016 and ongoing

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

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2016 and ongoing

Review of Scheme for Financing Schools			
A review will be completed over summer with consultation (maintained schools only) in September and proposals for any amendments to come to Schools Forum in October.	06/07/17	4	563
Early Years Funding Formula			
The hourly rates for 2 year olds, and for 3 and 4 year olds have been implemented following consultation; consultation will be carried out with regard to 2018/19 formula; required to move to full implementation of universal base rate for 3 and 4 year olds by April 2019.	06/07/17	6	565
Membership			
Vacancies in academy membership and extensions of terms of office of a number of members to be progressed with relevant groups: academy proprietors and Chairs of Governors as appropriate.	06/07/17	7	566
High Needs Block Centrally Retained			
Centrally retained budget of £2.4 million: work in progress with savings of £100k identified to date; further review over the summer and detailed breakdown will be provided for October Schools Forum including all references to PFI in High Needs Block.	06/07/17	8	567
High Needs Group Terms of Reference			
Terms of Reference for High Needs Group were endorsed.	06/07/17	9	568
Membership			
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
Chair and Vice Chair			
Election of Maggie Waller as Chair and John Constable as Vice Chair confirmed to June 2018	10/10/17	2	575
Schools' DSG Out-Turn 2016/17			
Report noted with the 13 maintained schools carry forward balances.	10/10/17	5	578
Early Years Funding			
Report noted and EY Task Group to meet as part of the development of the 2018-19 budget.	10/10/17	6	579
High Needs Block			
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
National Funding Formula			
Update provided and Task Group to meet to look at modelling for 2018/19 transition to NFF.	10/10/17	10	583
Langley Hall Primary Academy: Exceptional Premises Factor Request			
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
Scheme for Financing Schools			
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
School Improvement and Education Services Grant 2017/18			
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
Minutes of Previous Meeting			
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			
Schools National Funding Formula 2018/19			
NFF models to be submitted to 5-16 Task Group prior to consultation with schools	09/11/17	5	595
Schools Forum Constitution Update			
Slough Schools Forum Guidance update to be taken to full Council	09/11/17	7	597

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2016 and ongoing

Matters Arising			
Noted closing date for election process for academy member noted: Friday 8 December 2017	06/12/17	2	602
Formula Changes for 2018/19			
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
Scheme for Financing Schools			
Reported no issues following consultation. Consultation with maintained schools completed. Maintained schools' members of Forum approved the revised scheme.	06/12/17	6	606
Report on Resources Base Task Group Proposal/High Needs Commissioning Places			
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
High Needs Centrally Retained Clarification (budget codes and descriptors/Centrally Retained Budgets 2017-18			
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
Matters Arising			
Peter Collins agreed as member of Schools Forum, representing academy schools.	17/01/18	3	617
2017/18 DSG Monitoring Report			
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
Funding Formula Changes 2018/19			
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
Central Services Schools Block (CSSB)			
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
Early Years			
Forum noted EY Task Group recommendations regarding implementation of EYNFF for 2018-19	17/01/18	7	621
Growth Fund 2017-18			
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
De-delegation Report			
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
2017-18 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decision Log			
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
Confirmation of Indicative Budgets 2018-19			
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
Early Years Block			
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
PFI Update Report			
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

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2016 and ongoing

A table would be produced to show where contributions had been made to the sum of £297,000.			
High Needs Block Budget 2018-19			
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
Membership			
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
Annual DSG Report 2017-18			
Schools Forum noted the comprehensive DSG annual report and requested this appear as an annual item on agendas	05/07/18	7	646
Review of the Scheme for Financing Schools 2017-18			
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
Early Years Centrally Retained 2018-19			
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
Update from Task Groups			
Draft Terms of Reference for all three Task Groups were approved by Schools Forum	05/07/18	10	649
Election of Chair and Vice Chair			
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.	05/07/18	11	652
Schools Forum Membership/appointment of Vice Chair			
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
Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years			
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
Consultation results on the Scheme for Financing Schools and Licensed Deficit Scheme			
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
Schools Forum Membership			
Following due process, Jon Reekie, governor at Phoenix Infant Academy reappointed, Susan Marsh, Headteacher Colnbrook Primary School and Ray Hinds, Baylis Court appointed, all for terms of two years. Eddie Neighbour, Upton Court Grammar School agreed to continue as an observer.	04/12/18	5	668
Growth Fund 2019/20			
DSG top slice for 2019/20 of £900,000 was requested. SBC was also asked to underwrite Year 7 places at Grove Academy: Schools Forum agreed to fund £90,000 for 2018/19, and to continue the underwriting into 2019/20 as the third and final year with a maximum of £60,000 or 50% of the cost, whichever was the lower.			
Schools Forum also agreed the criteria for accessing Growth Fund in 2019/20 as proposed. With all these commitments taken into account, SF agreed a reduced DSG top slice of £800,000, leaving an estimated carry forward of £130,000 at the end of 2019/20. Falling rolls were thought likely to really impact in the year 2021/22 and it was suggested a supporting paper be presented to Schools Forum in the summer 2019.	04/12/18	8	671
DSG Budget 2019/20			
A request was made to Schools Forum to approve re-allocation of funds to the correct blocks in order to correct DfE baseline errors.			
Schools Forum agreed to transfer £264,566 from High Needs Block to CSSB, £500,000 from High Needs Block to Schools Block, to re-allocate Virtual School funding of £100,000 from Historical commitment to Ongoing commitment within the CSSB, a move from 50% to 65% NFF in 2019/20 formula (following inconclusive consultation outcome). Schools Forum rejected SBC's proposal to transfer 0.5% (approximately £650,000) from 5-16 Schools Block to High Needs Block, based on the outcome of the consultation with schools.	04/12/18	9	672
Banding (High Needs top-up funding) Working Group update			
New Banding model to continue to be tested, with workshops and training sessions to be made available during the Spring term 2019.	04/12/18	10	673
Minutes of Previous Meeting			
Jo Matthews had stood down as Special School/PRU Representative but would continue as an Observer. The 3 special/PRU academies had confirmed that Neil Sykes would become Academy Special School member and Jamie Rockman Academy PRU member, both for 2 year terms of office w/e/f date of S/F meeting	16/01/19	4	681

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2016 and ongoing

S/F acknowledged the projected DSG outturn and approved the overall deficit should be carried forward into 2019-20	16/01/19	4	681
De-delegated funding for behaviour support services			
3 out of 4 S/F members representing maintained schools had voted against the de-delegation of funding from maintained school budgets for inclusion in the Schools Block APT	16/01/19	7	684
Early Years Centrally Retained Funds 2019/20			
Schools Forum members noted and agreed the use of Centrally Retained Funds 2019/20 for the Early Years block.	16/01/19	8	687
High Needs Block - Deficit Reduction Strategy			
The ESFA had requested that LAs inform them how deficits, particularly in High Needs, were being addressed. The LA had responded that it was doing all it could to address the issue and this work was ongoing. There was evidence of underfunding whilst demand was increasing. The link between High Needs and PFI was acknowledged and would be taken into account to reduce the deficit. A supporting paper would be presented to S/F for their March 2019 meeting.	16/01/19	10	685
High Needs Block – Centrally Retained Budget 2018/19			
New commissioned Speech & Language service commissioned to be available from Friday 1 February. Communication to be made re. launch.	16/01/19	11	686
Any Other Business			
Chair of S/F to write to the Education Secretary, on behalf of members, regarding the proposal to withdraw supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools.	16/01/19	15	692
Minutes of Previous Meeting			
S/F meeting scheduled for Wednesday 15 May cancelled.	05/03/19	3	695
High Needs Funding - final proposal for banding model			
Consultation was extended by 2 weeks, closing on 1 March. New banding model to be introduced 1 April 2019, agreed feedback be given July and December 2019, and April and July 2020. Some continuing concerns from special schools but work ongoing with Vikram Hansrani. Key monitoring reports to be shared with S/F.			
S/F approved the new banding model and agreed to receive feedback reports at the key stages noted.	05/03/19	6	698
Update on Central School Services Block			
Due to slight increase in copyright costs the amount required for transfer from High Needs to CSSB reduced by approximately £10,000.	05/03/19	8	700
PFI Update			
Noted Council reviewing High Needs Block and possible Section 106 funding.	05/03/19	9	701
Schools Forum membership			
Terms of office of nine members due to finish 31 July 2019. Clerk to arrange nomination process/elections (if appropriate)	05/03/19	12	704
Matters Arising			
Decision made taken by SBC to fund the £184,000 to 3 PFI schools and guarantee to be taken.	04/07/19	3	709
Growth Fund 2018/19			
Forum noted the contents of the Growth Fund 2018/19 outturn report and agreed the underwriting for Grove of £90,000 to £25,000 (2018/19) and maximum from £60,000 to £90,000 (2019/20)	04/07/19	5	711
DSG Budget Deficit Recovery Plan			
Neil Wilcox and Nic Barani to clarify whether historic £184,000 related to PFI contribution for Arbour Vale.	04/07/19	7	713
Review of the Scheme for Financing Schools 2019/20			
LA noted that maintained schools to be consulted on dates of publishing such consultations in future.	04/07/19	8	714
Update from Task Groups			
All Task Groups to meet before November 2019 Schools Forum meeting. A list of respective Task Group members to be drawn up for regular circulation to members.			
Terms of Reference for 5-16, HNB and Early Years Task Groups approved, without change, for academic year 2019/20	04/07/19	9	715
Schools Forum membership			
An email sent to all local schools, inviting nominations for membership	04/07/19	10	716
Any Other Business			
Forum approved the transfer of approximately £54,153 to Local School Improvement Board (LSIF) from Slough Primary Heads' Association (SPHA), being the remainder of £70,000 grant from DSG underspend agreed in 2016 to address issues around Recruitment and Retention.	04/07/19	13	719
Schools Forum Membership			
Following due process, it was confirmed that nine members of Schools Forum had been reappointed for a further two-year term.	01/10/19	4	723
Update on National/Local funding issues			
Schools Forum approved the transfer of £500,000 from HNB to Schools Block, to correct an historical error in the 2017/18 baseline.			
Schools Forum agreed that the consultation to schools should give two options for consideration, 65% and 85% National Funding Formula.	01/10/19	5	724

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2016 and ongoing

SEND Banding Update			
Schools Forum noted that Forum was to receive quarterly updates on the new banding model.	01/10/19	9	728
Growth Fund 2020-21			
S/Forum noted primary 'bulge' classes now working through secondary sector. Only two primary schools receiving Growth Fund allocations. S/Forum noted primary 'bulge' classes now working through secondary sector, with continued high pupil movement into and out of Slough. For the past two years S/Forum had agreed to support 50% underwriting for Grove Academy. Members queried Grove moving from 2 form entry to 4 form entry in 2020/21 in light of falling rolls.			
S/Forum approved Growth Fund top slice of £600,000 giving an estimated underspend of £24,000 and underwriting for Grove 2019/20 at £90,000 (previously £60,000) Falling Rolls Fund not considered necessary at this time.	12/11/19	6	738
Proposed Transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block			
S/Forum noted the response to the consultation on the proposal to transfer 0.5% from Schools Block to High Needs Block and rejected the application, upholding the outcome of the consultation. LA representatives confirmed they would not apply to the DfE to overturn this decision.	12/11/19	7	739
Schools Block 5-16 Formula Consultation Outcome			
S/Forum noted the outcome to the other element of the consultation and recommended the LA follow the support to finalise budgets based on an 85% move towards the National Funding Formula (NFF). Final APT to be shared with S/Forum at next meeting.	12/11/19	8	740
Scheme for Financing Schools			
S/Forum noted 41% had responded to consultation on minor changes. Scheme only applicable to maintained schools and respective S/F members representing that sector approved the changes to the Scheme 2019/20. LA representatives noted request for changes to be shared earlier, although dependent on DfE	12/11/19	9	741