

SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM
18 April 2012
School Specific Contingency
(Director of Education and Children's Services)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Schools Forum of the projected outturn 2011-12 and proposed budget 2012-13 in respect of the School Specific Contingency.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools Forum notes the projected outturn 2011-12 and proposed budget 2012-13 in respect of the School Specific Contingency.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is appropriate for School's Forum to be aware of the level of the School Specific Contingency and of the inclusion of the contingency in the Local Authority Central Services Equivalent Grant (LACSEG) for Academies in 2012-13.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Schools Forum will be aware that a number of budgets are set aside under the heading of School Specific Contingency.
- 5.2 Budgets within the contingency have been set up to support schools where circumstances change during the financial year, either on a school by school basis, or on a borough-wide basis, for example, a difference between the anticipated Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) when the budgets were built and the final allocation confirmed by the Department for Education (DfE).
- 5.3 Appendix A sets out the projected outturn compared to the budget approved by Schools Forum last year. Members of the Forum will note that the overall variation is a projected overspend of £4k. However this masks a number of underlying issues.
- 5.4 The budget for DSG – withdrawn grants was transferred into headroom and has already been allocated to schools.
- 5.5 The budget for practical learning is subject to LACSEG recoupment and has been reduced by £184,530 over the course of the year as a

result of the full and part year impact of maintained secondary schools converting to Academy status.

- 5.6 There have been some significant movements between the various budgets within the contingency, particularly noticeable in respect of new statements. Members of Schools Forum have previously been alerted to the increasing numbers of pupils with statements.
- 5.7 Appendix B sets out the proposed school specific contingency for 2012-13. The proposals incorporate a number of technical adjustments and budget movements. The gross budget across school specific contingency and transfers to local authority managed budgets remains at the same level as 2011-12.
- 5.8 Over the course of the last financial year and during the charging policy review, it became clear that a number of the budgets within the school specific contingency should be reported within the local authority managed budgets. These budgets have been transferred from the school specific contingency to the centrally managed budgets for 2012-13.
- 5.9 The remaining budgets have all been reviewed in the light of experience during 2011-12 and anticipated requirements during 2012-13. The EYSFF contingency has been retained at the current level as a result of the increasing provision of early years education by childminders which is difficult to predict. The difference between the 2011-12 gross budget and 2012-13 gross budget requirement, including transfers is £178,000. This additional budget has been allocated to new statements as the pressure on the budget is not expected to reduce.
- 5.10 With effect from 1 April 2012, the DfE are including school specific contingency in the LACSEG recoupment framework.
- 5.11 As a result, the schools specific contingency budget has been shown on a gross and net budget basis. Those academies open on 31 March 2012 will receive a per pupil amount appropriate to their phase (primary, secondary) based on the per pupil budget set for the remaining maintained schools (net budget). The resulting estimated adjustment is shown in the recoupment column. Any maintained school converting to Academy status on 1 April 2012 or later will receive the same per pupil amount (on a pro-rata basis). This will then reduce the available budget for the remaining maintained schools.
- 5.12 The DfE have issued guidance in respect of exclusions from LACSEG recoupment. As a result, the specific funding for Arbour Vale can be excluded along with the EYSFF contingency (which applies to nursery age pupils) and rates for maintained schools (as Academies are reimbursed for actual rates costs). The appropriate representations will be made to the DfE in order to secure these exemptions.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

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

Section 151 Officer

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

Access Implications

- 6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Not applicable.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Not applicable.

Representations Received

- 7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers

Contact for further information

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Appendix A

Service Area	Approved April 2011	In Year Effect Recoupment	Latest Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance
	£	£	£	£	£
Contingency Budgets					
Significant September Intake	216,300		216,300	170,000	- 46,300
Bulge Classes / New Forms of Entry	372,200		372,200	354,000	- 18,200
Practical Learning	339,000	184,530	154,470	154,470	-
Rates	5,600		5,600	32,000	26,400
6th Day Provision	48,000		48,000	48,000	-
Public Service Support	20,000		20,000	-	20,000
Grant Contingency	50,000		50,000	-	50,000
DSG Pupil Number Variation	150,000		150,000	-	150,000
Arbour Vale - Banding Support	321,600		321,600	321,600	-
EYSFF Contingency	200,000		200,000	40,000	- 160,000
Union Representation	20,000		20,000	19,800	- 200
New Statements	348,000		348,000	770,000	422,000
Hard to Place	219,000		219,000	219,000	-
DSG - Withdrawn Grants	209,250		-	-	-
Total Contingency Budgets	2,518,950	184,530	2,125,170	2,128,870	3,700

Appendix B

Service Area	2011-12			2012-13		
	Gross Latest Budget	Full Year Effect Recoupment	Latest Net Budget	Gross Budget	Recoupment	Proposed Net Budget
	£	£	£			£
Contingency Budgets						
Significant September Intake	216,300		216,300	216,300	21,550	194,750
Bulge Classes / New Forms of Entry	372,200		372,200	200,000	10,610	189,390
Rates	5,600		5,600	49,800	-	49,800
Grant Contingency	50,000		50,000	-	-	-
DSG Pupil Number Variation	150,000		150,000	150,000	33,580	116,420
Arbour Vale - Banding Support	321,600		321,600	321,600	-	321,600
EYSFF Contingency	200,000		200,000	200,000	-	200,000
Total Contingency Budgets	1,315,700	-	1,315,700	1,137,700	65,740	1,071,960
Under DfE Guidance, rates Arbour Vale - Banding Support and EYSFF contingency are exempt from recoupment.						
The following budgets should not be reported in the School Specific Contingency:						
<u>Transfer to LA Managed Budgets</u>						
Practical Learning				339,000		
6th Day Provision				48,000		
Public Service Support				20,000		
Union Representation				20,000		
New Statements				526,000		
Hard to Place				219,000		
<u>Transfer to ISB 2011-12</u>						
DSG - Withdrawn Grants				209,250		
Total budget movements				1,381,250		
Total 2011-12 approved budget				2,518,950		