

SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM
12 September 2012

Implementation of Funding Arrangements 2013-14 – Update on Progress
(Director of Education & Children’s Services)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Schools Forum of the progress to date on the implementation of new funding arrangements for schools and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2013-14.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools Forum notes the progress to date and the plans in place to meet key deadlines.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Schools Forum has a key role in the implementation of the funding arrangements and it is appropriate for the Forum to be aware of progress to date.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Members of Schools Forum will recall that in March 2012, the Department for Education (DfE) issued consultation on School Funding Reform: Next Steps towards a Fairer System and in June issued School Funding Reform: Final Arrangements 2013-14. The implementation of the new arrangements from 1 April 2013 will be challenging in view of the considerable changes required within tight timescales.

- 5.2 In order to respond to the reform agenda, Slough has now launched an internal project to deliver the reform changes in two phases:
Phase 1 – to 31 October 2012 (i) finalise arrangements for notional Schools Block, including development of a simpler, compliant 5-16 formula (ii) develop commissioning arrangements for notional High Needs Block and work with Slough schools and Academies on implementation of place-plus funding and (iii) respond to consultations reported elsewhere on this agenda.
Phase 2 – to end of January 2013 (i) finalise arrangements for notional Early Years Block, including ensuring the Early Years Single Funding Formula is compliant and (ii) finalise arrangements for notional High Needs Block.

- 5.3 Wendy Sagar has been engaged on a part time basis to project manage phase 1. Support is being provided by Education Finance colleagues and other internal colleagues. Progress to date includes:
- Formal project documentation including Project Initiation Document (PID), Project Plans, Consultation Plan, milestones and work packages;
 - Project Team has met twice;
 - Data check and baseline deadline (15 August) met;
 - Full analysis of £128m gross DSG 2012-13 budget between three new blocks for Schools, High Needs and Early Years;
 - Extensive financial modelling on proposals for a simpler 5-16 local formula, using DfE datasets and modelling tool; and
 - Consultation (including presentations and briefings) with stakeholders, including the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, Slough Corporate Management Team (CMT), Schools Forum, Slough Strategic Education Forum (SSEF), Governors, Bursars and Head Teachers.
- 5.4 Steps are currently being taken to manage and mitigate the main projects risks, namely resources, complexity and timeframe.
- 5.5 The next major milestone will be to issue a formal consultation proposal in respect of the 5-16 funding formula. Ongoing consultation with the stakeholder groups, including briefings, presentations and consultation sessions, will continue throughout the project as will further financial and data modelling. Following consultation with all schools and Academies and feedback from the Schools Forum meeting on 24 October, the formula will need to be approved by CMT on behalf of Slough Members before the pro-forma can be submitted to the DfE by 31 October 2012.
- 5.6 Appendix A illustrates the key milestones and deadlines.

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 – Strategic Director of Resources

- 6.2 The financial implications of the proposed changes will be managed within the Dedicated Schools Grant funding envelope.

Access Implications

- 6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 None.

Method of Consultation

7.2 Not applicable.

Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers

DfE School Funding Reform: Next steps towards a fairer system (March 2012)

DfE School Funding Reform: Arrangements for 2013-14 (June 2012)

Contact for further information

Wendy Sagar, Interim Strategic Education Finance Partner (Education & Children's Services)

(01753 875627)

wendy.sagar@slough.gov.uk

School Funding Reform: Key Milestones

| Deadline | Milestone | Comments |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 August 2012 | High Needs Data Check and Baseline Return | Complex piece of work, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Border Pupil Numbers as at January 12; • Funded place numbers 2012-13 and Planned placenumber 2013-14 in Slough Special schools, Pupil Referral Unit, and Resource Units in Academies and mainstream schools; • Hospital Education funding; and • Confirmation of gross DSG baseline between Schools, High Needs and Early Years Blocks. |
| 12 September | Schools Forum | Schools Forum to consider proposals from SBC prior to formal consultation. |
| 13 September | Start of formal consultation on 5-16 Formula proposals | Issue Consultation Document on proposed 5-16 Formula to all Slough Schools, Academies and other Stakeholders. |
| 13 September to 11 October | Formal consultation period | Including 3 open consultation sessions. |
| 24 September | DfE Consultation deadline Core LACSEG proposals | |
| 3 October | Schools Forum | Schools Forum to receive a verbal update on feedback to Consultation. |
| 4 October | School Census Day | This Census will be used for 2013-2014 funding for the Schools Block and mainstream School Budget Shares |
| 11 October | Slough Consultation ends | |
| 24 October | Schools Forum | Schools Forum to endorse proposed arrangements and provide feedback on 5-16 proposed formula to inform Member decision. |
| 24 October to 31 October | CMT review and decision making | CMT to review and approve 5-16 Formula on behalf of Members |
| 31 October | Proforma to be submitted to DfE | |
| 1 April 2013 | Implementation of New Funding Formula for Slough Maintained Schools & Academies | |