SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM 16 October 2013

High Needs Financial Sustainability Policy (Directorate of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To ask Schools' Forum to approve and adopt the proposed High Needs Financial Sustainability Policy.

2 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That Schools' Forum is asked to approve and adopt the draft High Needs Financial Sustainability Policy (attached).

3 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The High Needs Block Task and Finish Group have met a number of times to discuss funding for special schools, PRUs and resource units in mainstream schools. One issue that arose was the potential risk of financial instability that could be caused by the new high needs funding system. The draft policy is designed to offer a level of financial comfort to high needs settings without creating an unsustainable burden on the DSG.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5.1 None.

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 report are outlined in the supporting information.

Access Implications

6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 High Needs Task and Finish Group.

Method of Consultation

7.2 Not applicable.

Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers

7.4 Draft High Needs Financial Sustainability Policy

Contact for further information

Atul Lad (Principal Accountant, ECS) (01753 875547) <u>atul.lad@slough.gov.uk</u>