

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
6th October 2015

School Improvement Savings suggested allocation 2015-16
(Directorate of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF PAPER

- 1.1 To update Schools' Forum following discussion at Schools' Forum on 23rd September 2015 regarding the underspend of £308k that was identified in the centrally-retained budgets from School Improvement in 2015-16.
- 1.2 To ask Schools' Forum for approval to use £20,000 from a further £210,000 of Cambridge Education School Improvement DSG underspend for a bespoke piece of School Improvement work as outlined below.

2 DETAIL

- 2.1 On 23rd September, a paper was presented to Schools' Forum asking for approval of the following amounts from the School Improvement DSG underspend of £308,000:
 - 2.1.1 £200,000 to contribute to the Council's funding of the schools' PFI scheme – not approved
 - 2.1.2 £35,000 to support Our Lady of Peace Junior and Infant schools in a proposed amalgamation – approved
 - 2.1.3 £300,000 for teacher recruitment and retention - £70,000 approved to commence research work around the scale and scope of the teacher recruitment challenges across Slough.
- 2.2 Further discussion and decision on remaining underspend of £203,000 to be deferred to the Schools' Forum meeting on 9th December 2015.
- 2.3 The Cambridge Education education services contract with SBC will finish on 30th September 2016. The local authority is now planning on how best to provide the most appropriate and best value for money school improvement service from 1st October 2016.
- 2.4 As part of this, Cambridge Education has identified a further saving of £210,000 from its centrally-retained School Improvement DSG. The local authority is seeking approval of the following:
 - 2.4.1 Funding of £20,000 from the £210,000 to allow work to take place with Slough schools to develop a fully detailed report on future requirements, options and recommendations by December 2015 with a view to tendering for the service early in 2016.
 - 2.4.2 The £20,000 would be used to procure an expert, independent school improvement resource to produce a detailed report to be prepared and delivered to the Interim Director of Children's Services by 18th December 2015. This report will include:
 - i. A range of options for the most effective and best value for money school improvement service
 - ii. A recommendation of a preferred option for Slough's schools
 - iii. A full specification of the required School Improvement service that will be used as part of a wider procurement/tendering exercise, if appropriate

The resource will be expected to work closely with a range of primary, secondary and SEN headteachers to ensure their requirements are considered and met and that it fulfils SBC requirements and statutory responsibilities

- 2.4.3 Appendix A shows a draft outline of the range of School Improvement provision likely to be needed from Oct 1st 2016. Schools will be involved in helping to further refine the scope by Dec 2015.

Contact for further information

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