

**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM**  
**6<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

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**3. Centrally Held DSG 2017-18**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report sets out the new Centrally Retained Budget for 2017-18 and seeks Schools' Forum agreement to the proposed allocations in Annex A. This reflects the changes to delivery of school improvement functions following the return of services to the Council from Cambridge Education in December 2016.
- 1.2 As more schools seek independence from LA control, the role of the Council with regard to the monitoring and intervention function with schools and academies has to be redefined. The proposals for spend relating to School Improvement are designed to be of benefit to all schools and academies and are over and above the statutory functions of the LA. Working in partnership with schools and academies, the LA seeks to use the DSG allocation to assist schools in their ongoing self-evaluation, challenge underperformance and co ordinate professional learning networks according to identified need.
- 1.3 The contributions to the role of the Virtual School including the role of the Virtual Head for Children in Care support the statutory function of the Council via the DCST.
- 1.4 Funding for admissions, also supports statutory duties of the LA for all children and young people attending Slough schools and Academies.
- 1.5 Contributions to the Safeguarding function add value to the work of the SCSB and support all schools and academies in their vital work to keep children and young people safe and achieve compliance with Ofsted requirements.
- 1.6 The DSG contributions are to be seen in conjunction with the spend of the ESG and the Council General Fund to provide a suite of support to education providers.
- 1.7 The delivery of school improvement functions will be in line with a published strategy, including the LA policy for Schools and Academies Causing Concern. The document will be published for consultation before the end of December 2016.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Schools' Forum needs to agree or disagree to the centrally held School block DSG items in accordance with the Schools and Early Years DFE regulation.

### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1.1 Appendix A shows the requested centrally held budgets for 2017-18, please note that some services are only applicable from April to September 2017, after that date these services are intended to be funded from the ESG, further details will be included in the ESG paper.

### **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Not applicable.

### **5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 School funding regulations give Schools' Forums the decision making responsibility for centrally held budgets School block budget within the DSG. The budgets can no longer be increased and prior year commitment from 2013 need to be adhered to on certain budgets.

### **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 None.

#### Method of Consultation

7.2 Not applicable.

Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers

Appendix 1

Contact for further information

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## Appendix A

### Schools Forum

6<sup>th</sup> December 2016

#### School block Centrally Retained Funding

#### School Improvement activities delivered by Slough Borough Council

The centrally retained budget has decreased from £1.283,706 2016-17 to £723,598 as being requested in 2017-18, the difference will be added to the school block. The funding will support:

Area	Budget
<b>School Forum Budget</b> to support the work of Schools Forum, such as use of a consultant, Financial support, and research and various ad-hoc meetings as required.	53,055
<b>Virtual</b> school which includes the Virtual School Head are in charge of promoting the educational achievement of all the children looked after by the local authority they work for.	100,000
<b>School Admissions</b>	178,180
<b>School Improvement Support</b> in line with published SI strategy and Schools Causing Concern policy. (improvement and standards: early support, monitoring, challenge and intervention) commitment and from <b>April 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017</b> . This includes prior agreement to support the Teaching school alliance until September 2017. Then these services will be funded from the Education support grant in paper 4. ( see breakdown)	314,863
<b>Education, School Improvement and Raising Standards</b> leadership, management, business and administrative support with on costs <b>from April 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017</b> then this will be funded from Education support grant detailed in Paper 4.	47,500
<b>Local Authority Safeguarding Children Board:</b> Schools' contribution to the Board and additional activity to improve school safeguarding provision. Accountable to the SCSB Education Subgroup.	30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>723,598</b>

The 'School Improvement' work referred to above can be considered under the following broad headings:

Function	Budget £
<p><b>Early support, monitoring, challenge and intervention to support the LA school Improvement Strategy and Risk Assessment processes contributing to School and Academy Self Evaluation .:</b> Use of School Improvement specialists/ partners</p> <p>This is to cover:</p> <p><b>1. Autumn Term standards conversations and risk assessments:</b> consolidation and agreement of LA RA judgements for schools and academies in line with published strategy. Optional for Academies , compulsory for LA Maintained schools. Culminates in agreed Self Evaluation judgements in line with published criteria and categories for all schools and Academies. Subsequent brokering of bespoke action planning and support where needed.</p> <p><b>2. Support, monitoring, challenge and intervention for maintained schools of Concern ( includes Academies where they are in agreement) during the year as a result of Ofsted inspection or issues arising from the Autumn Term Risk Assessment</b></p> <p><b>3. Targeted support</b> on areas of agreed focus for schools and Academies</p> <p>4. Spring and Summer focus visits to be suggested by the LA and agreed with school leadership representative groups.</p>	150,000
<p>Appointment of Cross Phase Bridging Adviser to manage and co-ordinate the work of the LA and Headteachers via the TSA, National and Local Leaders and other relevant partners .</p>	65,000
<p><b>Bespoke raising attainment projects in both phases to create professional learning networks. Co-ordinated by the SBC Advisers, bridging officer and the TSA, Nat and Local Leaders and Headteachers. Action plans needed for each phase.</b></p>	49,863

<b>Head teacher development. Commissioned to be coordinated by SBC in partnership with the TSA via the bridging officer and advisers.</b>	7,500
<b>School Governance Training and Support delivered by the TSA in partnership with SBC and the SCST: aspects of this work: recruitment, induction, toolkit and conference programme) to include training on inclusive practice roles and safeguarding.</b>  •	30,000
<b>LA Supporting head teacher meetings</b> and consultation group suggest remove as we do this anyway and put towards the cost of a bridging Adviser post	5,000
<b>Fischer Family Trust subscription</b> for access by the Local Authority and access for all Slough schools and academies	6,000
<b>CLEAPSS:</b> is an advisory service providing support in science and technology for a consortium of local authorities and their schools including establishments for pupils with special needs	1,500
Total	314,863