

Date of issue: Date Not Specified

MEETING:	SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM Maggie Waller (Chair), John Constable (Vice Chair) Virginia Barrett, Eddie Neighbour, Jo Matthews, Gillian Coffey, Jon Reekie, Philip Gregory, Kathleen Higgins, Helen Huntley, Paul McAteer, Navroop Mehat, Angela Mellish, Carol Pearce, Debbie Richards, Jo Rockall, Hardip Singh, Kate Webb, Nicky Willis and Sally Eaton
CAMBRIDGE EDUCATION:	Robin Crofts
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Coral Miller, Paul Wilson and Nandita Sirker
DATE AND TIME:	WEDNESDAY, 9TH DECEMBER, 2015 AT 8.00 AM
VENUE:	BEECHWOOD RESEARCH AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONG READINGS LANE, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE, SL2 1QE

AGENDA

PART I

<u>AGENDA</u> <u>ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
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Apologies for absence.

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary or other Pecuniary or non pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Section 3 paragraphs 3.25 – 3.27 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the

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matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 3.28 of the Code.

The Chair will ask Members to confirm that they do not have a declarable interest.

All Members making a declaration will be required to complete a Declaration of Interests at Meetings form detailing the nature of their interest.

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SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM

SCHOOLS GROUP:

Maggie Waller (Chair), Holy Family Primary School
John Constable (Vice-Chair), Langley Grammar School
Virginia Barrett, East Berkshire College
Gillian Coffey, Lynch Hill School Primary Academy
Kathleen Higgins, Beechwood Secondary School
Helen Huntley, Haybrook College
Paul McAteer, Slough and Eton C & E Business and Enterprise College
Navroop Mehat, Wexham Court Primary School
Carole Pearce, Penn Wood Primary School
Debbie Richards, Arbour Vale School
Jo Rockall, Herschel Grammar School
Nicky Willis, Cippenham Primary School
Sally Eaton, Wellingtons for Langley Hall (PVI)

APOLOGIES:

Angela Mellish, Krutika Pau, Paul Wilson and Philip Gregory

ATTENDEES:

Eddie Neighbour and Jon Reekie

LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY:

Nandita Sirker, Coral Miller and Rajpreet Johal (Clerk)
Robin Crofts (Cambridge Education)

DATE & TIME: TUESDAY, 6TH OCTOBER, 2015 AT 8.00 AM
BEECHWOOD RESEARCH AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONG
READINGS LANE, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE, SL2 1QE

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437. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies noted from Angela Mellish, Krutika Pau, Paul Wilson and Philip Gregory.

Maggie Waller welcomed Rajpreet Johal (Clerk) to the meeting after returning from maternity leave.

438. Declarations of Interest

None

439. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Page 2

Maggie Waller reported that the December Schools Forum meeting will have a report on SEBDOS funding.

Interim feedback from the Cost of Provision Review was to be presented by Paul Scaife at the end of this meeting.

Page 3

Maggie Waller advised that a meeting is to be arranged with Krutika Pau, Maggie Waller, John Constable and Nicola Clemo, CE of the Slough Children's Services Trust, regarding Schools Forum.

Page 5

Paul McAteer noted that in the minutes of the last meeting Krutika Pau stated that although PFI was capital, she was referring to School Improvement. Maggie to check this comment as it may have been related to under spend on School Improvement.

It was noted that two paragraphs were repeated in error on page 5 of these minutes.

John Constable provided a 'Headlines' summary sheet of 23rd September Schools Forum meeting. John will be writing this document as the Vice Chair of the Forum after each meeting. Members were happy with the format of the summary sheet. Members agreed it would be useful, after each meeting, for this paper to go to: SASH and the SPHA via Jo Rockall and Nicky Willis; chairs of governors, academy proprietors, Schools Forum members and attending officers.

Schools Forum Self Assessment Review and Updated Constitution report - Sarah Forsyth had confirmed that no further LA approval of the Schools Forum Constitution document was needed. This document is now formally agreed.

John Constable has written to academy proprietors regarding vacancies for academy members on the Schools Forum and the deadline for responses is 6th November 2015.

Page 6:

Review of Scheme for Financing Schools will be on the December Schools Forum meeting.

440. Current DfE Consultations/Changes on School Funding 2016/17

Coral Miller reported on a consultation on the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations 2015 which is being conducted by the Department for Education (DfE). Coral went through the four main recommendations applicable to schools, as set out in the report.

It was also noted that the change regarding falling rolls could become relevant to Slough in the future.

Coral was asked to clarify the proposed change regarding the use of non-schools education budgets for up to 25 year olds.

There was some discussion about the impact of place based funding for 2 year olds. Nandita Sirker noted that, in the future there will be budget pressures to support increased participation and this should be included in the LA response. Also noted were the pressures arising from Early Years SEN and the pressures this creates on the High Needs Block.

Clarification was sought regarding what happens to any deficit where a school amalgamation takes place. Coral Miller agreed to clarify, but thought that the deficit did pass across.

The Local Authority and Cambridge Education will draft a response to the consultation. Nandita Sirker, Rachel Cartwright and Robin Crofts will provide input for the response regarding 2 year olds.

It was agreed that, once the LA response was drafted, it would be sent to Maggie Waller by October half term. She will then circulate to members of the Forum and seek further comments so that a separate Schools Forum response can be submitted to the DfE.

It was noted that the consultation ends on the 13th November.

441. Cambridge Education centrally retained/school improvement under spend (issue from 23/09 meeting)

The report presented by Nandita Sirker was to update Schools Forum following the 23rd September discussion regarding the School Improvement 2015/16 underspend of £308k.

In addition, there was discussion regarding the additional £210,000 2014/15 Cambridge Education underspend that was identified at the last meeting.

The report proposed the use of £20,000 to support a piece of work commissioned by the LA to identify the options for School Improvement delivery after the end of the Cambridge Education contract (October 2016). It was noted that schools would be heavily involved in shaping this. It was noted that the commissioned work would take place over the current term. This issue would be added to the Schools Forum agenda for January 2016.

It was noted that the appendix to the report set out the basis of the current LA requirements for Cambridge Education.

Paul McAteer asked what was done before procuring the contract with Cambridge Education and it was confirmed that a bigger piece of work was done to support that process. Nandita Sirker clarified that the proposed piece of work is to look at options and that a detailed specification would then be worked out at a later stage.

Concern was expressed about the tight timetable and it was clarified that, following the options piece of work, procurement would then follow in the New Year.

Kathleen Higgins asked for clarification about the process to date relating to the decision being made to end the Cambridge Education contract within the context of there now being a request for underspend funding to be allocated so a consultant can be employed to work up a strategy for service provision and delivery post the CEA contract ending/CEA involvement. It was explained that, because of changes coming about through the introduction of the Children's Services Trust, it has brought into question any extension of the Cambridge Education contract beyond the initial three year period. This is because the introduction of the Trust will lead to a re-configuring of services and provision to ensure that children are securely safeguarded. No decisions have yet been made about the future delivery of services. This will be a process pursued over the next twelve months. With regard to education services, some will remain or return to the Local Authority; some will be transferred to the Trust; some will possibly be procured through a new provider or re-procured through Cambridge Education.

The request for the £20,000 is to look at options for delivery. It was noted that the budget for School Improvement is now estimated at approximately £800,000.

Jo Rockall asked if there was a need to tender if the service was taken back in-house and it was confirmed that this would not be necessary but that the LA would only do that if there was a clear evidence base to show that was preferable.

Robin Crofts stated that it was timely to review what School Improvement is and does and that Cambridge Education is only providing the LA statutory requirements of monitoring, early support for schools in difficulty, challenge

and intervention, while this area of work also has a wider brief of development and support.

There was discussion about the piece of work to be commissioned. Nandita Sinker said that it was possible to commission through specialist agencies but they would need to have a good understanding of Slough.

Helen Huntley stated that it would be sensible to ensure that both headteachers and governors were involved.

It was agreed to support the LA proposal for an allocation of £20,000 to fund the piece of work to scope out future school improvement options. This would be funded from the £210,000 Cambridge Education School Improvement underspend for 2014-15.

Nicky Willis reported on two primary phase school improvement proposals for funding, focused on mathematics. Work is being undertaken with Rising Stars on a project focussed on boosting performance for Year 6 pupils, related to the new maths testing requirements. It is a 2 year long term project. Nicky Willis was looking for agreement for this to be funded out of the £210,000.

£35,000 was agreed to support the project with Rising Stars. It was agreed that Robin Crofts will hold this amount within Cambridge Education and work with headteachers and Julian King-Harris to progress the project. It would provide support for seven schools which Cambridge Education would identify based on outcomes related to attainment and progress. Paul McAteer asked if the project would be for maintained schools and academies and this was confirmed.

Further proposals for the remaining £155,000 balance of the Cambridge Education 2014/15 underspend will be brought to Schools Forum in December. This may include a second project identified to do with the 'Mastery' curriculum which would support 10 schools at a total cost of around £100,000. This will come to the December meeting with more detail and Nicky Willis is to circulate more information.

Balance of £308,000 of the underspend on the centrally retained school improvement budget 2015/16 (£203,000):

It was noted that there was an error in the minutes and that 2.1.3 of report should be amended: delete "after £70k approved".

John Constable gave an update on the possible use of the £70,000 allocated for teacher recruitment at the September School Forum meeting. This could fund a dedicated website, attendance by headteachers at recruitment fairs, some marketing and administrative support. The paper tabled by John Constable will be circulated with the minutes.

A request was made for a further £13,000 to offset the £26,000 commitment of secondary headteachers to recruitment research. This was agreed.

It was agreed that the remaining £190,000 would be transferred to the High Needs Block to contribute to the easing of anticipated pressures on expenditure.

442. 2016/17 Budget Timetable

5-16 Formula Timetable was provided to Schools Forum and noted.

It was noted that consultation with all schools regarding any formula changes for 2016/17 would take place in November immediately after the Task Group, which has been confirmed.

443. Cambridge Education

Robin Crofts reported Cambridge Education is now initiating the exit strategy whilst making sure there is no compromising of issues regarding improvement of schools.

444. Academies Update

Robin Crofts reported that there is a meeting planned with Cambridge Education, the LA and the Regional Schools Commissioner in November.

445. 2015/16 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log

Key Decisions Log and Forward Agenda Plan attached for information.

446. After main meeting - Feedback on Cost of Provision Review

Following the full meeting, Paul Scaife attended to provide the Schools Forum with initial feedback on the work to date on the Cost of Provision Review.

SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP - November 2015

School	Type of School	Governor (G) / Headteacher (H/T)	Elected by	Term of office ends
Academies (9 members)				
Special Schools / PRUs (2 members)				
Haybrook College	Special School/PRU	Helen Huntley (H/T)	Academies	May-17
Littledown	Special School/PRU	Jo Matthews (H/T)	Academies	Nov. 2018
Primary Academies (3 members)				
Lynch Hill Primary School	Academy	Gillian Coffey (H/T) Substitute Nicky Willis	Academies	Aug-15
Baylis Court Trust MAT / Godolphin Infant School	Academy / MAT	Jon Reekie (G)	Academies	Nov.2018
Cippenham Primary School	Academy	Nicky Willis (H/T)	Academies	Mar-17
Secondary Academies (4 members)				
Herschel Grammar	Academy Selective	Jo Rockall	Academies	Jul-17
Langley Grammar	Academy Selective	John Constable (H/T)	Academies	Jul-17
Slough & Eton C of E Business and Enterprise College	Academy	Paul McAteer (H/T)	Academies	Jul-17
Upton Court Grammar School	Academy	Eddie Neighbour (VP)	Academies	Nov.2018
Maintained Schools (6 members)				
Primary (4 members)				
Holy Family Primary School	Voluntary Aided	Maggie Waller(G)		Aug-15
Wexham Court Primary School	Community	Navroop Mehat (H/T)	Primary Heads	Jul-16
Khlasa Primary School	Voluntary Aided	Hardip Singh (G)	Governors	Oct-16
Penn Wood School	Community	Carol Pearce (G)	Governors	Sep-17
Secondary (2 members)				
Beechwood	Community	Kathleen Higgins	SASH	Jul-17
St Bernard's Grammar School	Voluntary Aided	Angela Mellish	SASH	Jan-18
Special Maintained (1 member)				
Arbour Vale School	Special	Debbie Richards (H/T)		Nov-16
Nursery Maintained (1 member)				
Baylis Court Nursery	Nursery	Philip Gregory		Aug-15
Non -school members (3 members)				
16-19 Provider (1 Member)				
16 - 19 Provider	16-19 Provider	Kate Webb (sub Virginia Barrett)	EBC	Jul-16
PVI Provider (1 Member)				
PVI Provider	PVI Provider	Sally Eaton	Early Years	Mar-18
Children's Centres (1 Member)				
Slough Children's Centres	Children's Centres	Emma Slaughter	Cambridge Education	Apr-18
Total Membership:				20 Members

Observer:

Education Funding Agency

Coral's Draft Summary assumption on the Comprehensive Spending review.

Highlight in 2017-18 on Education changes

School block budget

1. **National funding formula (NFF)**, details are not clear at present i.e. what does this mean?
 - Does it mean that each authority will have a NFF based on their APT?, will the DFE calculates the payment and passports it to Academies and SBC passports it to maintained schools?.
 - Or does it mean a national formula “toplicing the SBC DSG” and distributing the funding directly to schools via a school specific factor (i.e. 6th form funding) or indeed a national factor?
 - What about LA specific items i.e. PFI contribution to the DSG, business rates, different lump sums and ratios etc?.
 - What if any is the LA role?
 - Centrally retained I'm assuming the DFE will take this to implement their plans?
 - How is this formula going to address local issues i.e. Westminster is different to Slough and Slough is different to Norfolk etc.?
 - Transitional protection will be offered, not sure if this replaces MFG or works along side MFG? Need the details.
 - Whilst there appears to be some protection in cash terms, as costs are rising of salaries etc this is real term cut. Detailed consultation will begin in 2016.

High needs block budget

2. **Isos report** suggest a funding formula that may contain:
 - Deprivation, Prior attainment, disability and General Children's health.
 - DFE will do the modelling and are considering using the 0 -15 disability living allowance (DLA).
 - The DFE will consider removing notional SEN budgets from the funding system (school's block), risk needs to be identified?
 - More explicit role for local planning and commissioning of places in specialist settings in which LA are expected to collaboration with schools and play a central role. (Assuming Trust and SBC).
 - Post 16 place led funding to be included in the formula.
 - DFE consider publishing joint guidance with DH/NHS England that clearly describes the role of clinical commissioning group leads, in SEN on aspect of funding currently funded by education and could be or should be funded by health.

Early years block budget

3. Need more info. 30hours looks like it will come into force in **September 2017**, the income threshold has been increased to £100k for working parents making more parent eligible for free early years care. The effect may be a reduction in PVIs and a need for a extensive capital building programme in maintained nurseries. Not sure if Nurseries will be allowed to become Academies.

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
9th December 2015

Consultation on Fair funding formula changes for 2016-17
(Directorate of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To consult with the school forum on the changes proposed by the Local authority on the Fair funding formula budget for 2016-17

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** Please see the attached consultation documents, which includes a consultation form which School Forum members can use to make comments, please ensure you state that you are commenting as a School Forum member and sent it to Coral **by 18th December 2015**.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council in partnership with the School Forum members commissioned an independent consultant to produce a report that shows the average cost of a Primary school and a Secondary school in Slough. It was agreed at the Steering group that this information would be used to produce the 16-17 budget on an evidence based criteria. The report produced, was used to inform changes to the Funding formula.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1** None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1** Appendix A. Graphs and tables.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1** None.

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

6.2 None.

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

None

Contact for further information

Coral Miller (Principal Accountant, ECS)

(01753 477209)

coral.miller@slough.gov.uk

2016 -2017 Schools and Academies Budget Consultation

**Consultation Budgetary
options influenced by the
Cost of Provision report.**

2016-17

Introduction

The School Forum jointly with the Council commissioned an independent consultant to examine what the average cost of a Primary and Secondary school are in Slough.

After reviewing the draft report produced by the independent consultant, the Council carefully reviewed the information and produced a table of 7 areas of spend comparing Primary costs to Secondary costs, which the independent consultant updated with the data collected from schools.

This information was then used to address some anomalies in the formula and to produce an evidence based budget for 2016-17. The Department for Education (DfE) requires each local authority to consult on any changes to the Funding formula that affects schools and academies to all Schools, academies as well as the School Forum. The council are now consulting you on the 3 most appropriate options and seek your views on which one you think is best.

Please be aware the Council will make the final decision and this will be communicated via the School Forum paper in January 2016.

You will find at the end of this document the consultation response form and this should be returned to Coral Miller, Interim Principal Accountant, Schools Finance, by **Tuesday 8th December 2015**.

Responses can be by email to coral.miller@slough.gov.uk or by post to:

Schools Finance
Slough Borough Council
St. Martins Place
Ground Floor East
Bath Road
Slough
SL1 3UF

Please see below.

Options to consider, proposed by Slough Borough Council

1	
Option 1	Do nothing
This option effectively ignores the Cost of provision report and continue to base the 2016-17 budget on historical factors which may not be relevant now.	

2	
Option 2	Evidence based data
<p>Based on the Cost of Provision report, a table of the cost was produced and a weighting between Primary and Secondary was produced. This weighting was applied to the Basic pupil entitlement only (AWPU).</p>	

3	
Option 3	Evidence based data with different lump sums
<p>As per above but compensating the Secondary schools for some losses occurred in the pupil led formula by applying differential lump sums. This formula seeks to address anomalies with the Lump sum being significantly lower than our comparative group by increasing both sectors from £55,000 to £100,000 for Primary schools and for Secondary schools to £150,000.</p>	

The council's preferred option is Option 3 as it incorporates the evidence based report while compensating the Secondary schools slightly for losses incurred by using an evidence based funding model.

Please see the attached Spreadsheet which show the effect on your school for each option.

Please note these are estimated figures, there will be some adjustments in the final figures due to the spending review and the DFE deciding how the council should treat the 2015-16 underpayment of £500,000 in 2016-17 budget.

The spreadsheet consist of the following:

1. Cost of Provision analysis table, the graphs are to follow.
2. 2016-17 formula summary which shows the overall affect in factors of the proposed changes on all 3 options.
3. Top level summary which shows the estimated total budget and the effect on your school for each option.
4. Shows an extract from the DFE modelling tool. Info. only.
5. Shows 2015-16 budget including minimum funding guarantee.
6. Shows the effect of option 1 of the Minimum funding guarantee and capping.
7. Sheet 7 and 8 is the same as above for option 2 and 3.
8. Sheet 9 Provides you with benchmarking information from similar authorities.

2016-17 Schools and Academies – Consultation Response Form

Name	
School	
Role	

Please tick to agree or disagree as suggested in the narrative above.

<u>Suggested Change</u>	<u>Agree: Yes/No?</u>
<p>1 Option 3 is the council's preferred option, as it uses the evidence based information and compensates the secondary schools for some losses incurred by using the evidence based approach. The Minimum funding and capping amount is more affordable than using option 2.</p> <p>Most schools receive more funding than option 2. The ratio split in this option is 1:1.33 Primary and Secondary split. Do you agree with the Council? If not please comment.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	

<p>2</p>	<p>Option 2 is an evidence based funding model but produces a higher minimum funding guarantee (MFG) level than Option 3. The MFG needs to be funded first. It also provides less funding for most schools than option 3 and doesn't compensate the Secondary schools for losses occurred . Hence why this is not the preferred option. This option produces a ratio split of 1:1.32 Primary and Secondary split. Do you agree with the Council? If not please comment.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Option 1 is not an option based on any evidence, therefore it is not the Council's preferred option. Do you agree with the council? If not please comment.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	
<p><u>If you disagree with the Council's preferred option state clearly which option you prefer. Option</u></p> <p><u>Any other Comments:</u></p>		

Please return by Tuesday 8th December 2015
Consultees on Changes to the 16-17 Funding formula
 Heads and Chairs of Governors for All Slough Schools and Academies.

Scaife Finance & Business Solutions Ltd

Cost of Provision Review –
Slough Borough Council and Slough Schools Forum

Version 3
November 23, 2015

Presented by:
Paul Scaife

Introduction

The original commission developed between Slough Borough Council (Council) and Slough Schools Forum (Forum) was to review how schools prioritise their resources and those costs that are common to all, regardless of size and status, and those that flex dependent upon context. A key element of the review was to understand the local funding formula and how this supports the learning aspirations of the schools and Schools Forum.

Equally the Council and Forum also wanted the review to inform the National Funding Formula Review being undertaken by the Department for Education (DFE).

Methodology

It was agreed at the commencement of the review that the following methodology would be adopted:-

- Initial data capture from all schools/academies in Slough;
- Outcomes from the data capture would be supplemented by a series of visits;
- Contact would be made with LG Futures, the DFE's appointed contractor, for the review of the National Funding Formula;
- This would then culminate in a draft report to the Council and Forum.

The initial data capture exercise commenced in July 2015 and was targeted at all schools and academies in Slough. This produced a minimal response and therefore the timeline for submission was initially extended until the end of August 2015. At this point the level of responses was still low and it was agreed to extend the date for submission further.

To stimulate further responses a simplified data capture sheet was circulated; this was supported by an agenda item at the Primary Headteachers' meeting. This generated minimal additional responses.

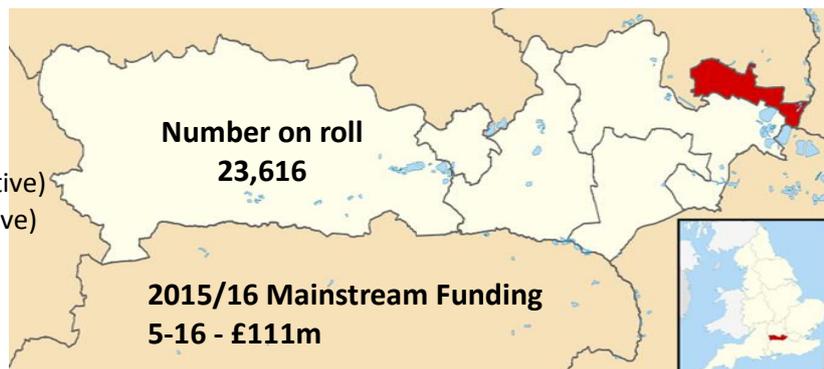
An initial findings presentation was made to the Schools Forum which highlighted the minimal responses and fragility of basing funding decisions on the limited feedback received. Following this meeting the provision of information accelerated.

Primary School Provision

- 13 maintained
- 16 academies

Secondary School Provision

- 4 maintained (1 selective)
- 9 academies (3 selective)

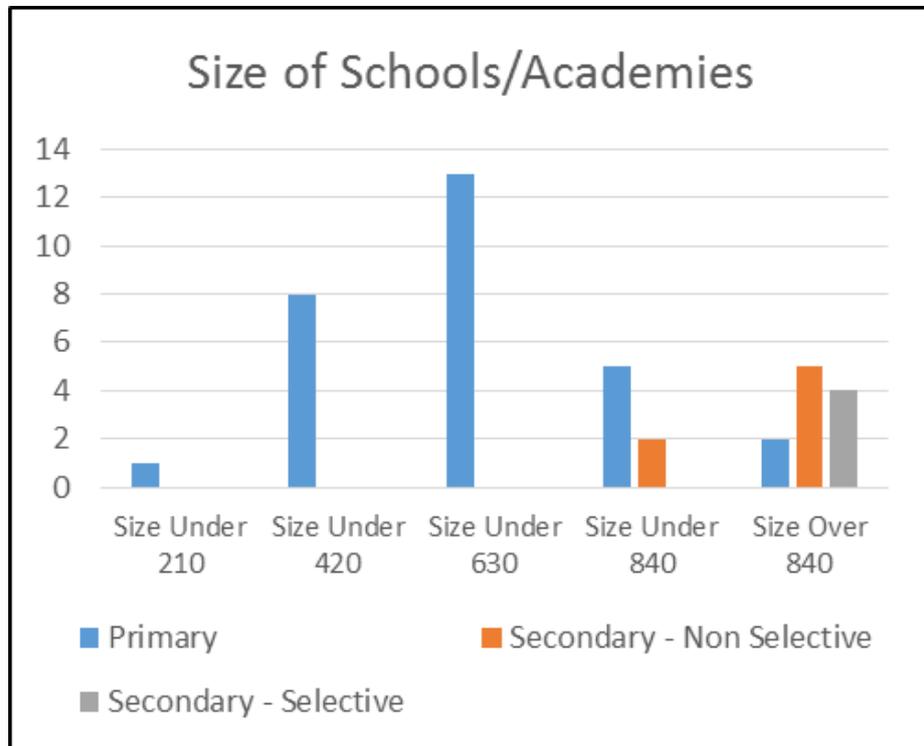


Data Capture

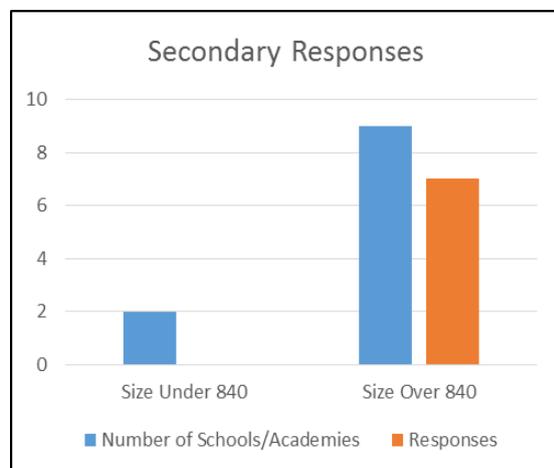
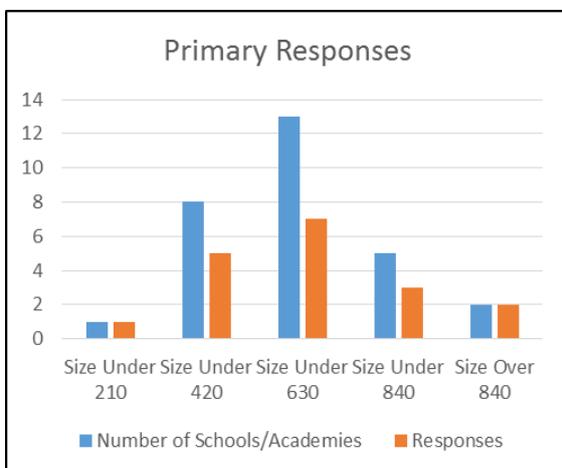
The composition and size of school provision in Slough is diverse. Initially all schools were grouped based on size into one of five categories. The following table shows the profile of schools and academies in Slough. Overall 40 schools were reviewed, two new schools were excluded as only two year groups existed.

Primary provision (29 schools and academies) in Slough fell into each size bracket.

Secondary provision (11 schools and academies) only fell into the top two size brackets.



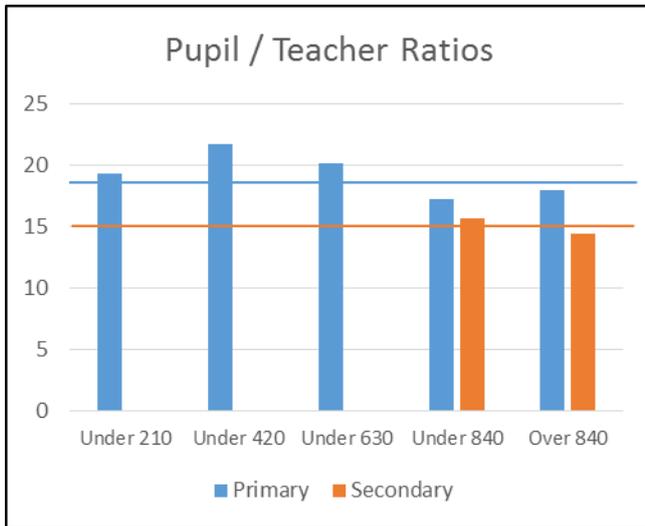
Of the 40 schools and academies the following response rates were received in each sector:-



The level of responses received totalled 25 and was split 18 (62%) primary and 7 (64%) secondary. These responses were a mixture of full responses and the simplified responses.

The following information is based on the submitted data provided by schools; this has not been externally validated for accuracy. It has been assumed that the 25 school submissions received provide a representative sample of all schools within Slough. Equally there are likely to be inconsistencies in the way that individual schools have categorised their spend in particular areas.

The amount spent on staffing is critical to the financial sustainability of all schools and academies. The following section compares key staffing indicators which help to build a view about the level of investment in staffing. Most schools/academies have fairly predictable pupil numbers which enables them to forecast the level of staff resources required, although this is not the case in some schools within Slough.



Pupil teacher ratios (pupil numbers divided by the number of leadership and teaching staff) were captured for all sizes of schools and an average produced.

The horizontal blue line is the average for all Slough Primary Schools/Academies, 19:1 the national benchmark being 21:1*

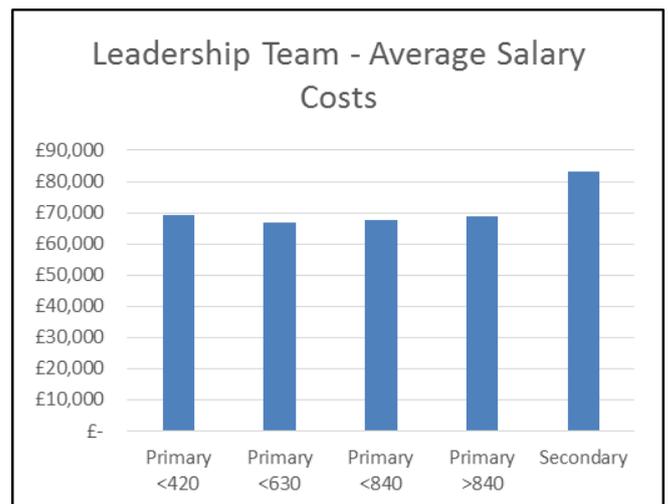
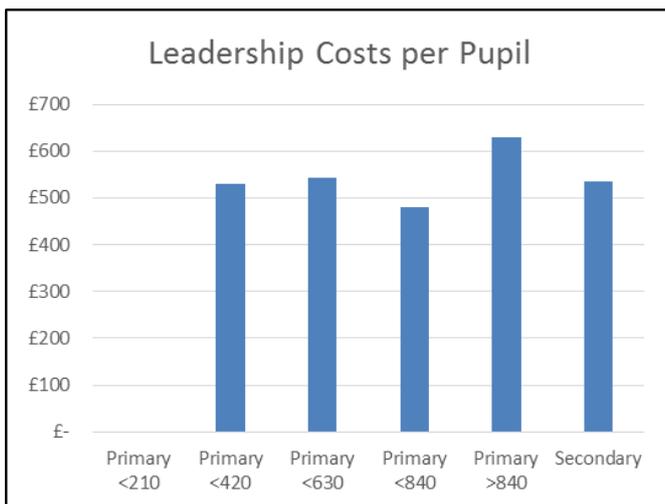
The horizontal orange line is the average for all Slough Secondary Schools/Academies, 15:1 the national benchmark being 15:1.

* The national benchmark is taken from the 2014 School Census and Workforce Census.

The pupil teacher ratios vary between the different sizes of school; the reason for the variances is not clear. One possible variable affecting these ratios will be the level of pupil premium funding that the school receive.

Leadership Costs

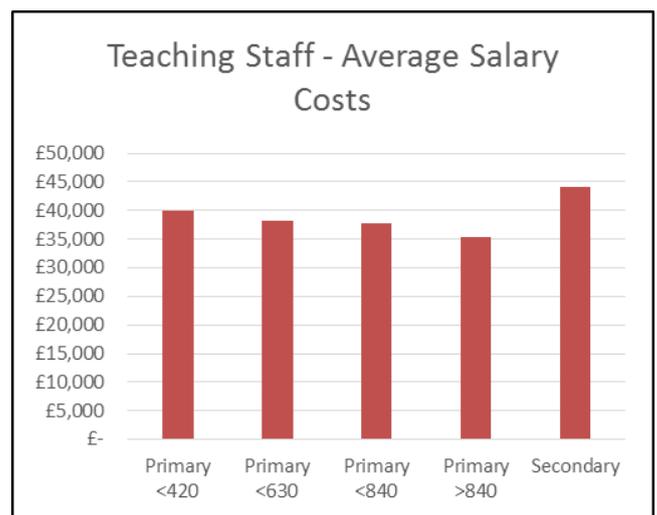
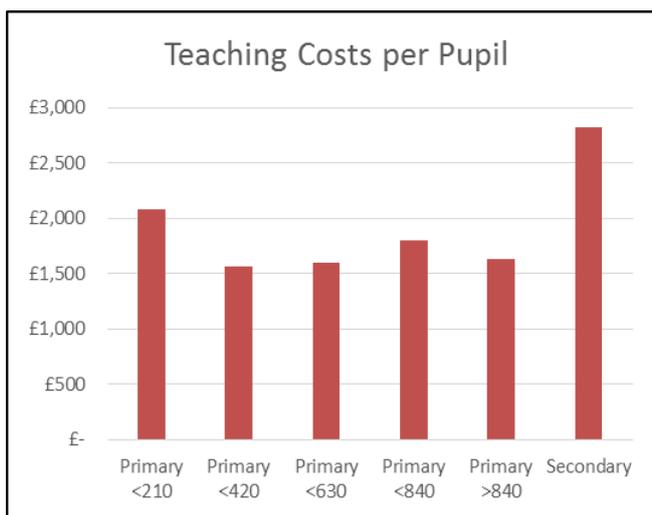
In general the leadership costs per pupil are consistent across most sizes of school, the one variable being the sector Primary >840. The average leadership salary cost across Primary is consistent at circa £63,000 compared to an average salary level of £83,000.



The previous chart showing leadership costs per pupil identifies variations between the different sizes of schools; this in part will also be influenced by the staffing model adopted. Some schools opt to employ middle leaders on the leadership pay range whereas other schools opt to engage middle leaders on the teachers' pay range. Clearly this difference in approach could provide a rationale for the differences in costs between the different sizes of schools. No staffing costs were provided by the school who supplied the information under category <210.

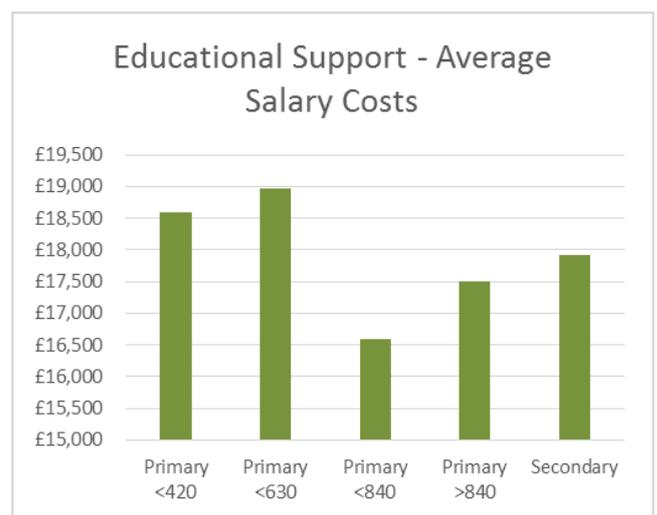
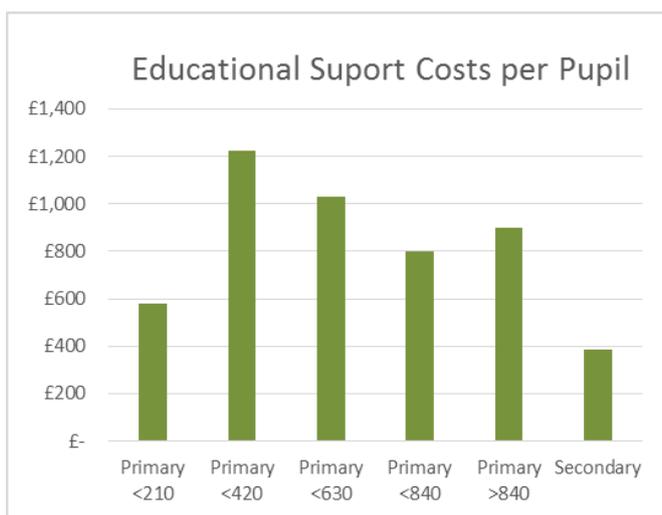
Teaching Costs

The general trend with teaching costs per pupil is that these are higher in both small primary schools and secondary schools; the remaining sizes of primary schools are broadly around £1,600 - £1,700 per pupil. The higher cost in secondary is often as a result of lower levels of educational support being used. The average salary costs in primary reduce with the size of school. Those schools visited were also asked to comment on the process for performance management in their schools - all commented that this was robustly completed.



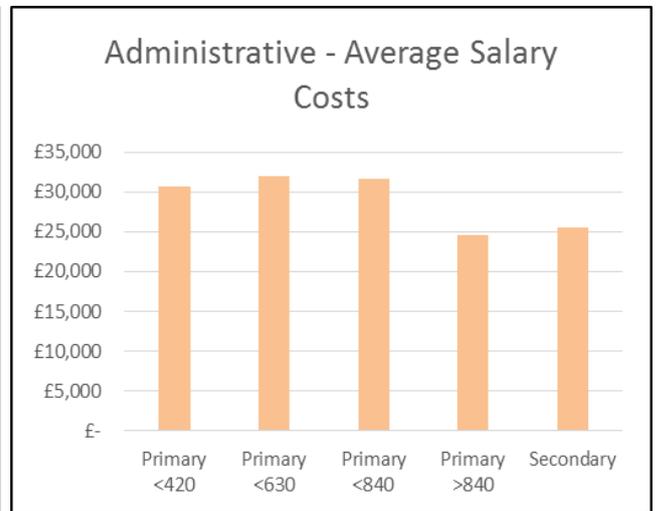
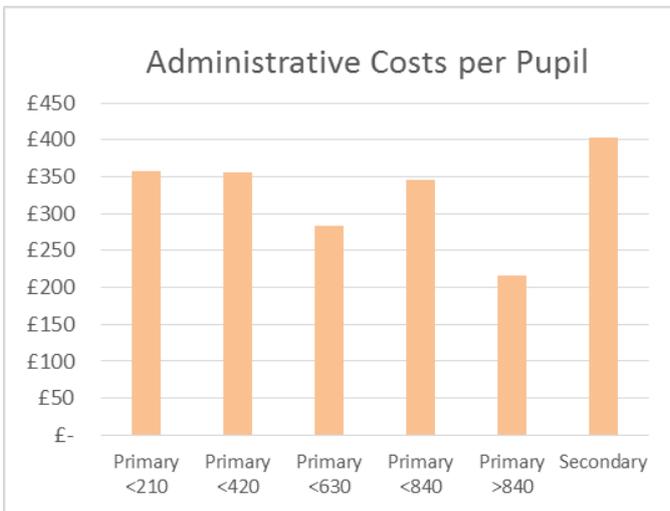
Educational Support Staff

This analysis needs to be considered jointly with teacher costs and demonstrates the decision taken by secondary schools to utilise higher levels of teaching staff rather than educational support staff. Equally this may also reflect the decision taken by some schools to utilise alternative provision externally. The position at primary is inconsistent and this may in part, be due to the staffing groups that each school have classified as Educational Support. Additionally the information will also vary school to school dependent upon the level of pupil premium funding that the school deploy to fund educational support staff.



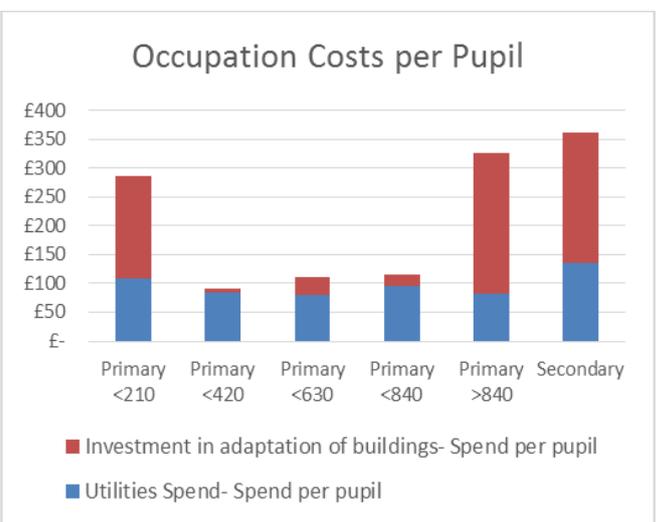
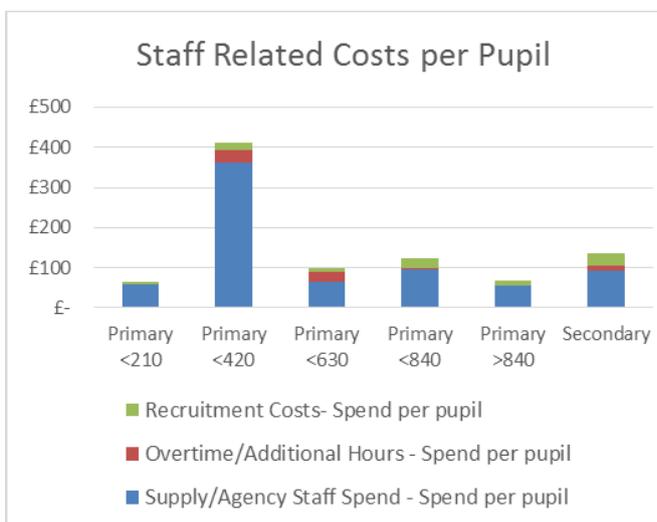
Administrative Staff

The cost per pupil appears to reduce in the primary sector as the size of the school increases; the anomaly is those schools Primary <840 where one school is significantly higher and thus affects the average. This result identifies the economies of scale often realised in larger schools. The average salary costs are circa £32,000 in the first three sizes of primary school and then reduce to circa £25,000 in the larger schools. A strong feeling amongst primary colleagues is that they do not have sufficient administrative capacity within their school given the number of parents that they engage with.

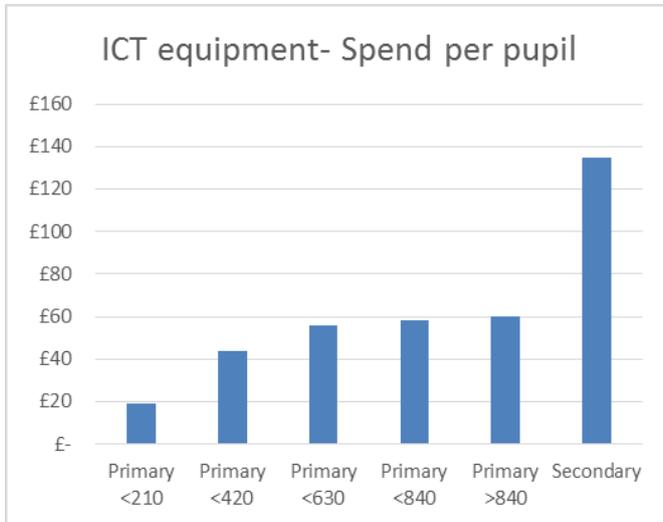


Other Comparators

Staff related costs are broadly around £100 per pupil, the anomaly being Primary <420 where the spend on supply/agency is significantly higher. This is likely to reflect a specific issue of long term absence in one particular school. Whilst recruitment costs are not significant per pupil, this does not recognise the level of disruption and time invested in advertising and recruiting to vacant positions. It also assumes that schools have specifically identified these costs. A small number of schools had opted to overstaff their schools to remove the need for agency/supply workers thereby increasing the consistency of staff in school and allowing the school to respond to staff shortages. These posts were partly funded by also placing these staff in other schools for specific projects and charging the school for this time.



Occupation costs per pupil, utilities spend is relatively consistent, however the investment in buildings is proportionate in the Primary <210, Primary >840 and Secondary. The remaining three sizes of primary have a low investment in buildings. It is not clear whether these school have prioritised capital resources to fund these works and have therefore not made any contributions from revenue.

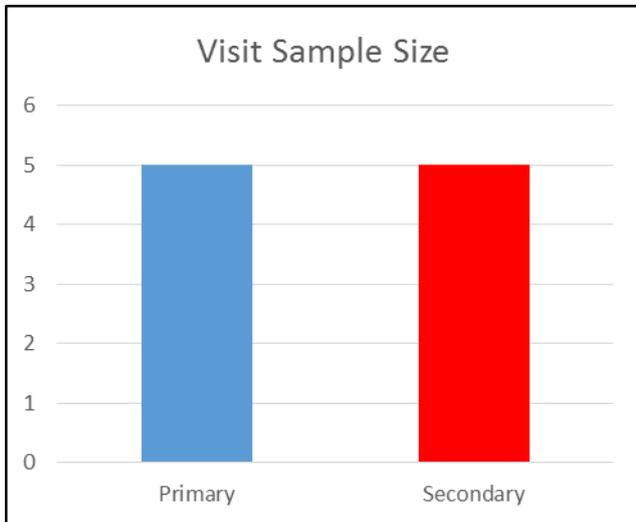


The per pupil spend on ICT increases is in line with the size of school. The spend at secondary is considerably larger than primary.

An issue to consider here is whether all schools have consistently recorded the costs of ICT equipment.

Visits

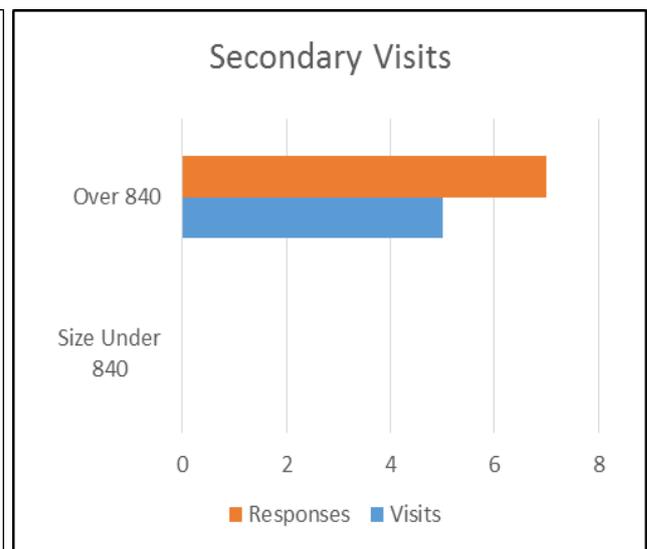
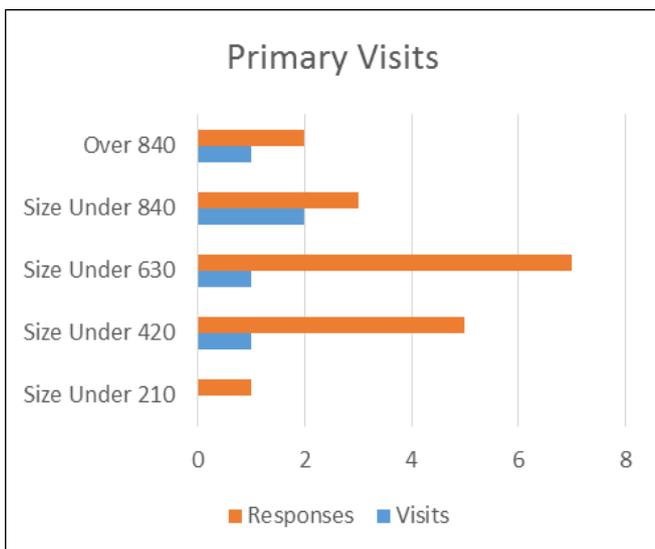
Of the 25 schools/academies that returned their financial data a sample of 10 schools/academies were selected for visits to further analyse and understand the process for making financial decisions. These visits lasted approximately 1 hour and were undertaken with the Headteacher.



The schools/academies visited were:-

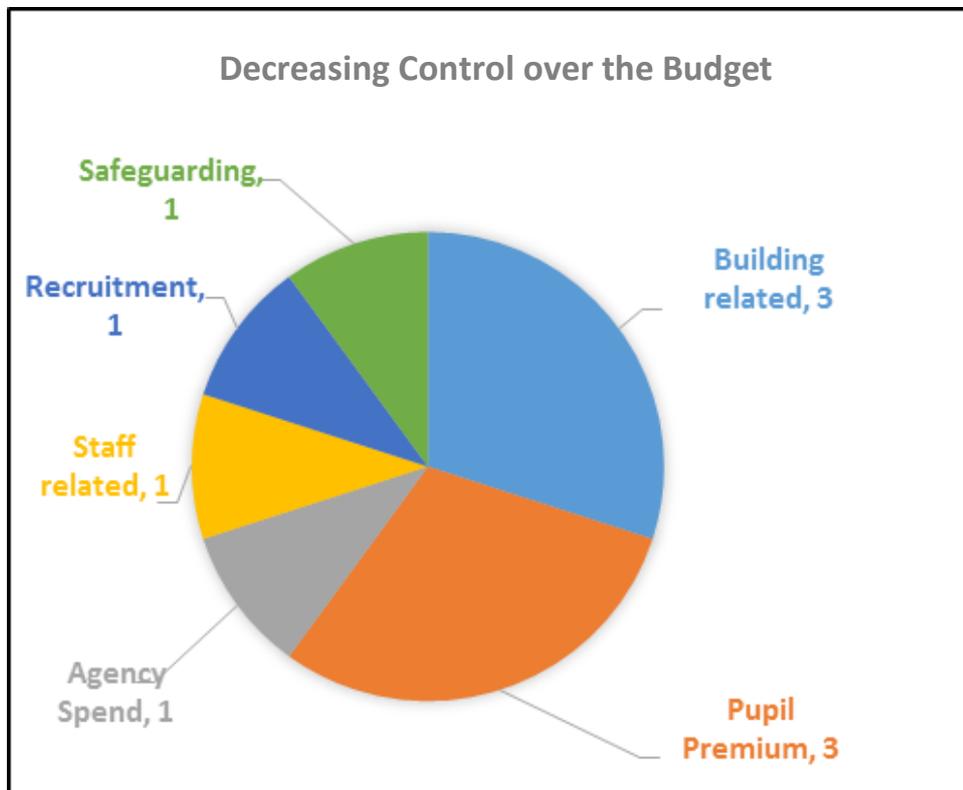
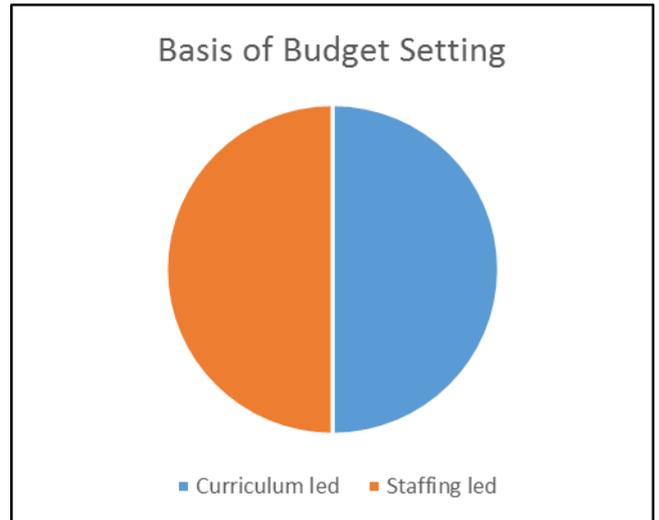
- Cippenham Primary School
- Claycots Primary
- Foxborough Primary School
- Langley Hall Primary Academy
- Penn Wood Primary and Nursery School
- Beechwood Secondary School
- Herschel Grammar School
- Slough & Eton C of E Business & Enterprise College
- Upton Court Grammar School
- Langley Grammar School

The spread of visits is depicted in the following graphs where a series of questions were asked to ascertain whether there were common approaches, opportunities or concerns raised. The following graphs highlight the issues raised.



The basis of budget setting had two broad approaches, those that modelled the provision required each year based on the needs of the curriculum compared to those that modelled the budget based on historical staffing levels.

A number of Headteachers indicated that budgets set for 2015/16 were reliant upon surplus balances developed in previous years.



One specific question asked was what areas of the budget you feel that you have decreasing control over.

Two areas had a higher level of response these were:-

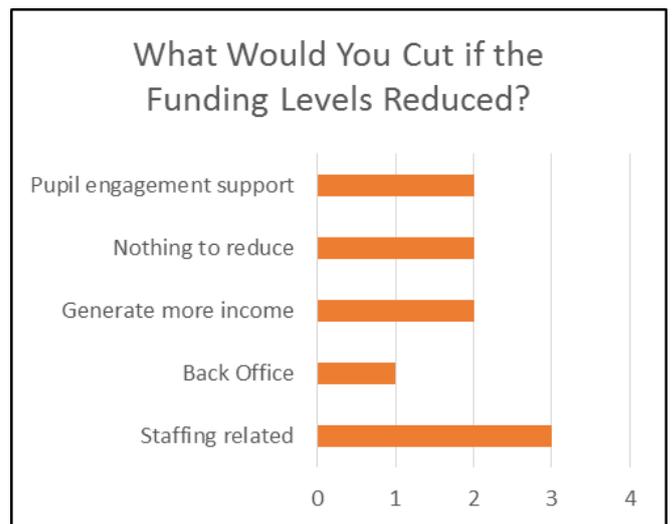
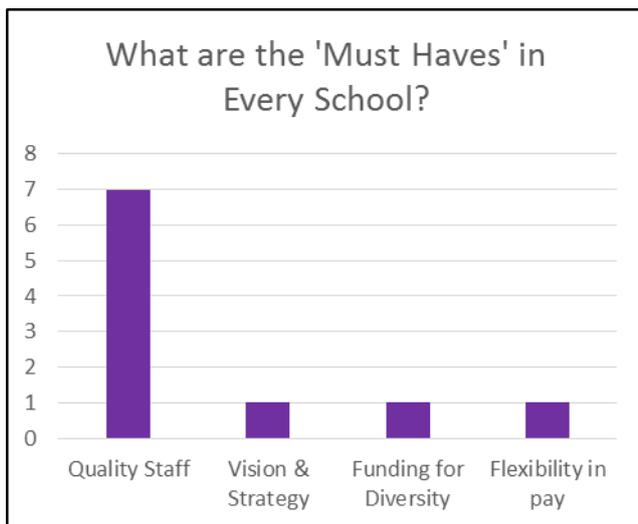
- Building related costs. Incorporating costs of improvement in older buildings and Service Charges in PFI schools.
- Pupil Premium where, due to changing funding thresholds, some schools felt that they had less funding available to support the needs of children.

Headteachers were then asked what they believed to be the ‘must haves’ in any school the clear response was that quality staff was the essential factor. A general issue was the difficulty that some schools/academies had in recruiting quality staff, although this was not an issue raised in all schools.

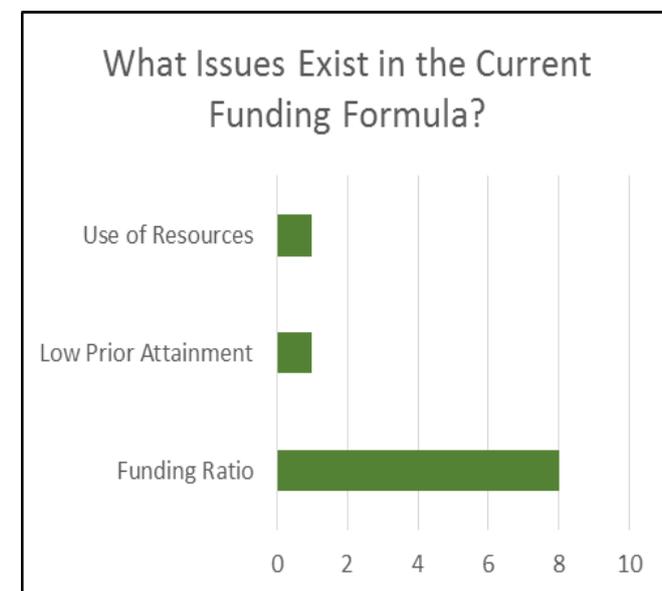
Secondary colleagues also highlighted that examination fees were a sector specific cost that needed to be highlighted through the review.

Whilst having quality staff (leaders, teachers, SENCO, business managers) was highlighted as key, most recognised that if the National Funding Formula led to a reduction in funding levels, whilst staffing would be protected where possible, it would be inevitable that savings would have to be made in this area.

Two schools particularly highlighted the current effective practice that they had in place around the engagement of vulnerable and dis-engaged children and that this additional provision would have to be reduced which could lead to an increase in exclusion rates. In comparison, two schools felt that there was nothing left to reduce and that a reduction in funding would send them into a deficit financial position.



A key issue discussed at Schools Forum related to the ratio of funding between primary and secondary, therefore a question was raised related to whether Headteachers felt that the current formula was equitable.



The most common area related to the ratios that exist with the formula, including:-

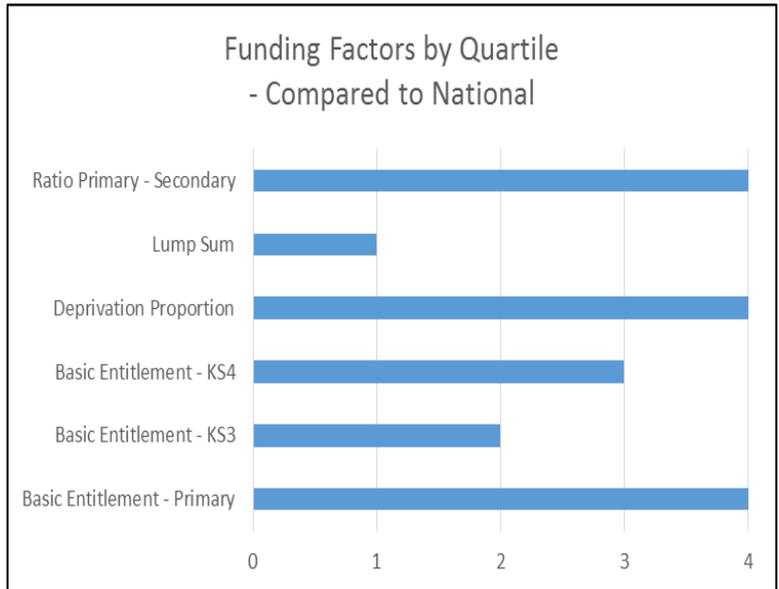
- the split between primary and secondary; and
- the split between pupil led factors and deprivation factors.
- Feedback was also received about the effectiveness of additional resources that had previously been identified for Primary Schools.

When the key factors in the formula are compared to other councils this is how Slough compares.

Each area was grouped in quartiles,

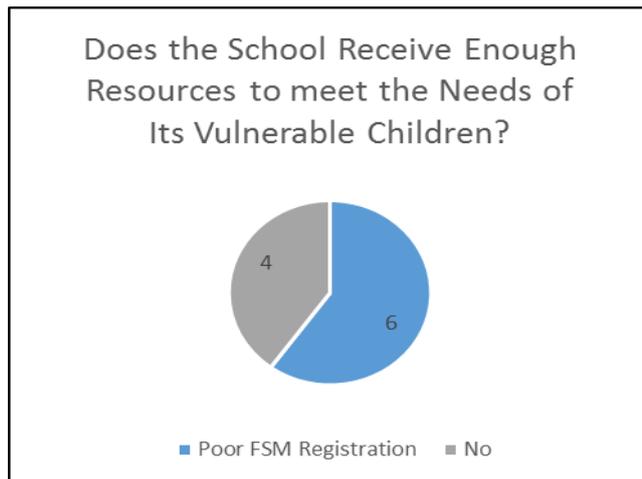
- quartile one being amongst the lowest funded in comparison with all Councils
- quartile four being amongst the highest funded in comparison with all Councils.

It is clear that the current formula in comparison with other Councils has a number of factors at the extreme either in quartile one or four.



The ratio of primary to secondary funding is in the top 10% of all Councils where the lump sum element is the second lowest in the country.

Given the varied context of schools within Slough, each school has a view about the balance of funding between the different elements of the formula including balance of funding in sectors and the balance between deprivation led funding given the additionality provided by pupil premium funding.

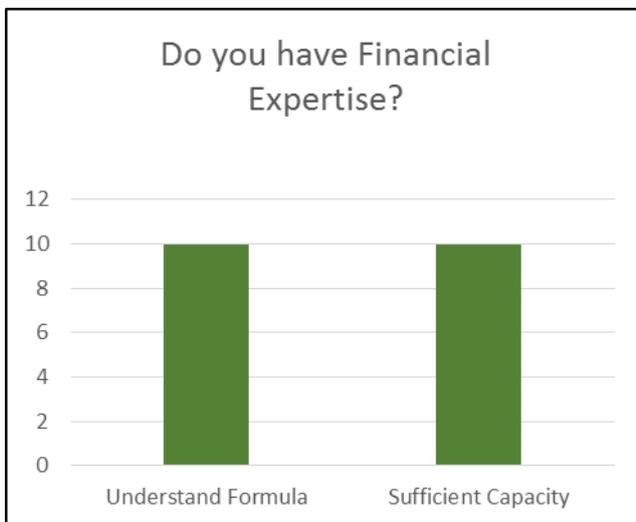
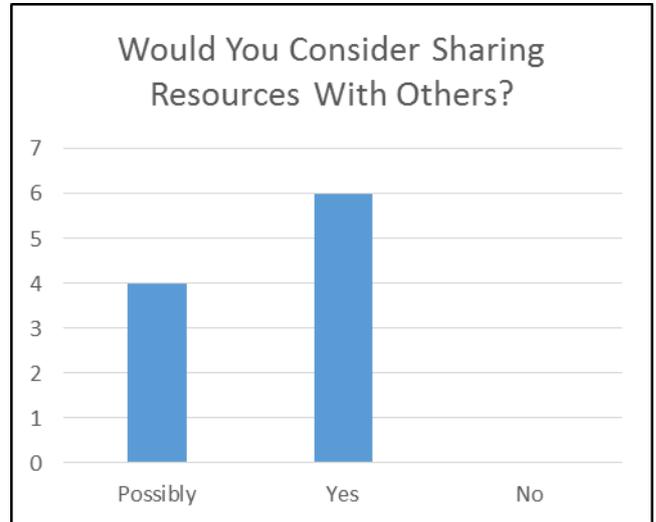
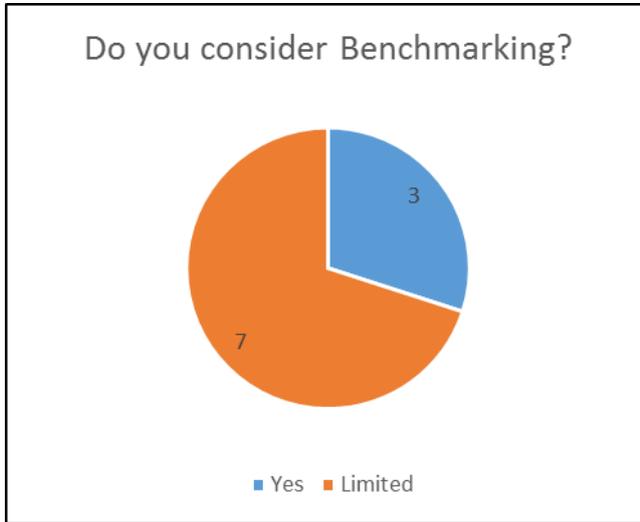


A key issue to emerge was that large numbers of children in a number of schools were not registered for Free School Meals when they were eligible. The financial impact of this to some schools was significant.

A number of schools recognised the issue and had attempted to tackle this with parents with minimal impact. Given the potential numbers affected it would be worth considering if a media and communications strategy across the Council would be beneficial to raise the profile of this issue.

Benchmarking/Financial Capacity

Benchmarking remains a key element of determining whether schools are providing value for money, however even though nationally the quality and timeliness of information has improved, often people find it difficult to effectively benchmark the provision in their schools. The general response was that people would like to engage in effective benchmarking but given the particular characteristics of Slough, this is difficult. Equally people were open to sharing resources but again found this difficult.



Headteachers also felt that they had appropriately skilled people in the school who understood the school funding formula and how a school should be financially managed.

This capacity often relied on the knowledge of the Headteacher around the funding formula.

All secondary heads commented on the usefulness on SASH in helping to benchmark and introduce consistent approaches. Additionally the Bursars meeting was also highlighted as a useful forum for discussion and comparison.

Conclusions

The diversity of school types and contexts in Slough is considerable, given the mix of maintained schools, academies and selective schools. Whilst all colleagues acknowledged that the level of pupil level funding in Slough was above the national average, a number felt that Slough had the same characteristics as a London Borough and that when compared to national benchmarks this was not comparable.

From the sample of returns submitted and visits undertaken it was clear that the approach taken to resource each school had key differences, for example the differentiation of staff used, approaches to engage disengaged children and opportunities to generate income.

A number of broader themes have emerged through attendance at meetings and site visits which indicated that there had been a reluctance to engage, primarily due to a lack of confidence that anything would change as a result of the review. Equally there were also strong views about the appropriateness of the funding formula weightings. The three key factors raised were the primary/secondary ratio; lump sum and proportion of funding for deprivation.

Most recognised the complexity in altering any of the factors but welcomed the opportunity to see the impact of any changes that would arise should different elements of the formula be changed. Clearly the process has been to be highly transparent to ensure that an effective discussion can take place with clear options for any schools/academies significantly impacted as a result of any changes.

In summary the review highlights a number of further questions that require clarification:-

1. Is the ratio of funding between the primary and secondary sector appropriate or should a model closer to the national average be considered?
2. Any redistribution of funding through the formula would undoubtedly impact on individual; or groups of schools and therefore should phasing of such changes be considered?
3. The lump sum is very low which will have an impact on smaller school, therefore should a model closer to the national average be considered?
4. The need to meet all children's needs was understood, however should a model be developed which looks to reduce the level of funding distributed under the deprivation factors closer to the national average given the additional funding often received in these school through Pupil Premium?
5. It would appear that a significant number of pupils eligible for free school meals are not registering which has an impact on the level of funding received across all schools. Consideration should be given to whether the Council could work with all schools to highlight this issue and look for incentives to encourage parents to register their children?
6. There was a view that national comparators whilst helpful did not adequately reflect the context of Slough and that a better comparator would be with other London Boroughs. The Council should consider whether it would be appropriate to engage with the Government to raise this view?
7. Resources will undoubtedly become tighter in years to come and schools should consider options for collaborative working. How could schools work more collaboratively to generate financial efficiencies?

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
9th December 2015

Growth Fund 2016-17
(Directorate of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Schools' Forum of the 2016-17 Growth Fund requirement and to seek their approval to fund this from the School's block budget. The authority also seeks permission to fund additional places in schools from 2015-16 to reduce the need for future bulge classes.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Slough Borough Council requires a topslice of £1,100,000 for the Growth Fund. This figure has increased from last year by £250,000 mainly due to requiring 3 emergency bulge classes in November 2015 which has reduced the amount of estimated underspend in 2015-16.
- 2.2 Slough Borough Council requests new funding for 2 additional places per class where class sizes are increased to 32, to ensure all new arrivals entitled to a place are offered one for 2015-16. The advantage of increased class sizes over bulge classes is that places are only funded when required rather than funding a full class of 30 places that may only be partially full.
- 2.3 See Appendix A and B.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Slough continues to have an increasing pupil population alongside a significant growth in numbers already working through the primary sector therefore the growth fund should be reviewed in light of future pressures.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 All options for creating new places in 2015-16 will require some additional revenue support as pupils will not have been recorded on the October census,.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Only new classes that have formally been approved by School Organisation Group (SOG) will be funded from the Growth Fund.
- 5.2 The DfE allows the local authority to have a Growth Fund for children that start a new class after the October census and are therefore not funded. The increase in Growth Funding relates to new classes for the September 2016 intake.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 Local Authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential.

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 School Organisation Group and all primary schools.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 School Organisation Group were consulted at the last 2 meetings 13th October 2015 and 23rd November 2015.
Consultation was issued to all primary schools 21st October 2015.

Representations Received

- 7.3 No school objected to the principle of larger classes but some stated they were unable to offer this due to the physical size of classrooms or other issues.
7 schools responded that they would consider larger classes but only if revenue funding was provided. Some also requested capital funding.
St Anthony's offered to admit children up to 32 in year 3.
Marish Primary School agreed to open 2 bulge classes in the 2 year groups facing the most pressure on places.

Cippenham Primary opened a class that was agreed in-principle earlier this year.
No other bulge classes were suggested.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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Tony Madden (Principal Asset Manager)
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tony.madden@slough.gov.uk

Current pressure on primary school places - Increasing Class Size

There is an immediate pressure in most primary year groups due to the number of in-year applications received over the summer and early autumn; these have been far higher than in previous years. The current position is that there is less than one class available in 3 year groups and just over this in the remaining year groups. The exact position changes on a daily basis as new applications are received and pupils leave Slough schools. A margin of 1.2% (30 places) is not sufficient to deal with sudden changes in demand.

If applications continue to be received at the current rate then it is likely that new places will be required in some year groups during 2015-16. As all bulge classes have been explored the only option for creating new places in the time required is to increase class sizes. The current suggested class size is 32¹.

Consultation with schools

This emerging situation was discussed at SSEF on the 18th September and at SOG on the 13th October. It was agreed through headteacher representation at SOG that schools should be consulted without delay on 2 options to increase capacity to meet this demand, which were bulge classes and increased class sizes.

The consultation resulted in 2 new bulge classes opening at Marish Primary and additional Year 3 places being provided at St Anthony's. No other bulge classes were put forward; this is not surprising as Slough has approached primary head groups and SOG for new classes on many occasions.

The results were discussed at SOG on 23rd November. Due to the continuing need for new places it was agreed to request revenue funding from Schools Forum to support schools that expand classes to 32.

Why is revenue required?

Schools responded with a number of reasons as part of the consultation but these mainly focussed on the additional support that would be required by the new pupils, many of whom will have EAL and be new to the country.

How will the funding apply?

The proposal is that a school will receive Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) funding for the time that the additional places are required. The places are to be agreed in advance with the LA with start dates confirmed in writing. As funding for the +2 places will be provided in advance, a school will need to commit to taking the pupils for one or both of the following periods:

- Start date to Easter
- Easter to July (year end).

If a pupil moves on from a class of 32 then the Authority should be immediately informed in order that a new pupil can be placed if one is waiting, as with any available place. If the additional place is no longer required then the supplementary funding would be discontinued once the funded period expires and not renewed..

¹ **Admissions Code:** For the KS1 year groups, class size legislation applies. Infant classes must not contain more than 30 pupils with a single teacher, although additional children can be admitted in exceptional circumstances. If admitted the additional children are defined as excepted pupils while they are in the infant class or until the class number falls back to 30. The Admissions Code lists categories of pupils that can be considered as excepted. The list includes children who move into the area outside the normal admissions round, where there are no other available places within a reasonable distance. Many of the children without places fall into this category.

APPENDIX B

2015-16 Estimates for Growth Fund Allocation Updated with information received 23102014

AWPU (2015-16)	3,179.91
Pupils per Class	30
Full Year Growth Funding per Class	95,397.30
Non-Academies (Sept 15 - March 16)	55,648.43
Academies (Apr 15 - Aug 15)	95,397.30
Academies (Sep 15 - Mar 16)	

Academies Recoupment Apr to August 16 39,748.88

15-16 BUDGET (EXCLUDING ACADEMIES)

CARRIED FORWARD 2014-15 agreed at 6th May 2015 SF

400,050

60,010

TOPSLICED FROM 2015-16 SCHOOL BLOCK

850000

TOTAL BUDGET

1,310,060

Please complete with Y = Yes and N = No or put in the new number of classes agr

FORECAST 2015-16				Option A	Claim 16-17 Budget from DFE	TOTAL FOR 2015-16 ACADEMIC YEAR	
Ref	School	New Pupils	No. of Classes	2015-16 SBC September to March	2015-16 Academies April 2016- Aug 2016		
1	Cippenham Primary School*	Academy	30	1	55,648	39,749	95,397
	Claycots School	Non-Academy	150	5	278,242		278,242
	Over payment in 14-15 - Claycots	Non-Academy	-30	-1	-55,736		-55,736
2	Godolphin Junior School*	Academy	30	1	55,648	39,749	95,397
3	Montem Primary School*	Academy	30	1	55,648	39,749	95,397
	Penn Wood Primary and Nursery School	Non-Academy	30	1	55,648		55,648
	Priory School	Non-Academy	30	1	55,648		55,648
4	Ryvers Primary School*	Academy	30	1	55,648	39,749	95,397
	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School	Non-Academy	30	1	55,648		55,648
	St Mary's CE Primary School	Non-Academy	30	1	55,648		55,648
5	Western House School	Academy	30	1	55,648	39,749	95,397
	Wexham Court Primary School	Non-Academy	30	1	55,648		55,648
6	Willow Primary School*	Academy	30	1	55,648	39,749	95,397
7	James Elliman	Academy	30	1	55,648	39,749	95,397
	CONTINGENCY (T Madden recommended 4 classes) paid from September						
8	Estimated 1 new class - Cipp Primary bulge	Academy	30	1	55,648	39,749	95,397
10	Estimated 1 new class - James Elliman Yr 1 bulge	Academy	30	1	55,648	39,749	95,397
	Emergency bulge classes						
9	Estimated 1 new class - Cipp Primary Yr 1 bulge	Academy	30	1	35,774	39,749	75,523
**	Estimated 1 new class - Marish tbc	Academy	30	1	35,774	39,749	75,523
	Estimated 1 new class - Marish tbc	Academy	30	1	33,787	39,749	73,535
	Another class - tbc estimate		30	1	31,799	39,749	71,548
	Total		540	20	1,138,718	516,735	1,655,453
						DFE pays	
					-171,342		

ESTIMATED OVER/UNDERSPEND (FINANCIAL YR 15-16) CONT

Note:

Academy payment for April to August 2015
Academy payment recoupment from DFE

318490

-318490

0

** See email from Tony Madden 16th Nov 2015

reed.

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
9th December 2016

Centrally Held DSG 2016-17
(Directorate of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To ask Schools' Forum to agree the School block centrally held budgets within the DSG for 2016-17.

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 year DFE regulation.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the centrally held budgets continue as in 2015-16 budget.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1.1 Appendix A shows the requested centrally held budgets for 2015-16, the amount requested and an explanation of the use of the budget from Cambridge Education who now administrates these services.
- 3.1.2 Appendix B shows the requested centrally held budgets for 2015-16, the amount requested and an explanation of the use of the budget held by Slough Borough Council.

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.

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

Coral Miller (Principal Accountant, ECS)
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coral.miller@slough.gov.uk

Schools Forum

9th December 2015

Centrally Retained Funding for Services to be Delivered by Cambridge Education

Appendix A

School Improvement activities provided or commissioned by Cambridge Education on behalf of Slough Borough Council

The centrally retained 'school improvement' budget (approx. £1.2 million originally allocated for 2015/16) will support:

Area	Budget
School Admissions	178,180
School Improvement Support (improvement and standards: early support, monitoring, challenge and intervention)	629,725
Education, School Improvement and Raising Standards leadership, management, business and administrative support with on costs	95,000
Local Authority Safeguarding Children Board: Schools' contribution to the Board	30,000
Total	932,905

The 'school support' work referred to above can be considered under the following broad headings:

Function	Budget £
Early support, monitoring, challenge and intervention: Use of School Improvement specialists. This is to cover: 1. Autumn Term Visits (ATVs): compulsory for all maintained schools (23; 46% of all Slough schools), and optional visits for academies on request (16 – 60% of academies - out of 27 academies proposed for this Autumn Term 2015) 2. Support, monitoring, challenge and intervention for maintained schools in difficulty during the year as a result of Ofsted inspection or issues arising from the Autumn Term Visit	300,000

<p>3. Targeted support on areas of agreed curriculum focus and vulnerable pupil groups where emphasis is on closing the gap: which is encompassed in the Children and Young People's Plan</p>	
<p>Budget to support schools in intervention: to facilitate school to school support and achieve rapid and sustainable progress. This allocation of funding to schools is primarily related to addressing challenges around leadership and management, teaching and learning and curriculum development.</p>	130,000
<p>System leaders: Development of support networks available to schools facing significant and unexpected leadership and management issues, where in some instances rapid responses are required. Areas being developed are associated with securing the rapid availability of head teachers, members of senior leadership teams, bursars/business managers and governors.</p>	48,000
<p>School to school support: Commissioned to be provided by Slough Learning Partnership</p> <p>1. Primary subject/strand development networks: £33,150</p> <p>2. Secondary subject/strand development networks: £18,575</p>	51,725
<p>Head teacher development. Commissioned to be provided by Slough Learning Partnership</p>	15,000
<p>School Governance: Commissioned to be provided by Slough Learning Partnership: aspects of this work: recruitment, induction, toolkit and conference programme)</p> <p>Needing to cover: Governance requirements specified as statutory requirements by national government and contractual requirements between the Local Authority and Cambridge Education. This addresses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment to committees • Setting out requirements for governing bodies: ensuring instruments of governance are in place for all maintained schools • Appointment of LA governors • Advice and support for governors • Information, including newsletter, signposting and training • Producing statements of action for schools in difficulty • Assessing governance through the Autumn Term Visits and Strategy Action Groups (SAGs) 	60,000

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out external reviews of governance as required by Ofsted or associated with local assessment indicating the need for review • Appointing additional governors where required • Issuing Warning Notices to governors where required • Disbanding governing bodies where necessary and pursuing Interim Executive Boards (IEBs) and the costs associated with their delivery 	
Supporting head teacher meetings and consultation groups	10,000
Fischer Family Trust subscription for access by the Local Authority and access for all Slough schools and academies	12,000
CLEAPSS: 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	3,000
Total	629,725

Cambridge Education (CE) has commissioned various strands of activity as indicated above. CE will go through due process in the allocation of this funding, with arrangement built in around secure procurement where emphasis is to secure value for money, building in evaluation to ensure this funding has achieved significant impact, together with positive outcomes for children and young people across Slough.

APPENDIX B

Slough Borough Council DSG Centrally Held Budgets 2015-16

Schools Block

2015-16 Budget £	Included in the Mott MacDonal d Contract?	Description of the budget	Budget Manager	Needs Forum Decision?
£241,034	No	This budget looks like it was made up by the following:	Coral Miller	Yes
		1. £53,055 - Budget to support the work of Schools Forum, such as use of a consultant, Financial support, and research and various ad-hoc meetings as required.		
		2. £149,100 - CERA (Capital Expenditure Revenue Account) previously known as Schools Apportionment (AN). Costs incurred in capital programmes for schools that cannot be capitalised i.e. feasibility studies etc.		
		3. £28,400 - School Improvement and Raising Standards.		
		4. £10,479 - Contingency for Project work etc.		

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
9th December 2015

De-delegation Budget 2016-17
(Directorate of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Schools' Forum of the 2016-17 De-delegation requirements and to seek the approval from Mainstream Primary and Secondary representatives to fund this from their School budgets.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Slough Borough Council recommends the following, the trade union service and the behaviour support service budget be approved for de-delegation.
- 2.2 See Appendix A for the split in costs between maintained schools, please note once a school becomes an Academy in 2016-17, it's de-delegated amount will be refunded and it will no longer be required to de-delegate any budgets via the school block budgets. Currently 7 schools are waiting for approval.
- 2.3 Summary of Estimated costs.

Description	School type	Sub division	Unit Cost	Total
Staff Supply cover costs	Primary	AWPU	£0.8247	£5,385
	Secondary	AWPU	£0.3332	£930
TOTAL				£6,315
Behaviour Support	Primary	FSM (ever6)	£63.45	£89,117
	Secondary	FSM(ever 6)	£57.94	£115,520
	Primary	Prior attainment	£63.45	£50,575
	Secondary	Prior Attainment	£57.94	£38,226
TOTAL				£293,439

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The DFE requires that the School forum representatives for Primary mainstream vote on whether to delegate funding for Primary schools and the maintained Secondary schools representative vote on whether their want to delegate budget for the Secondary Schools.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None considered.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

None considered.

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

None

Contact for further information

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APPENDIX A

SEBDOS and Trade union - De delegation from Maintained Schools

2016-17

	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
FSM NOR	1405	797		
FSM unit costs	63.45	63.45		
Prior attainment NOR	1994	660		
Prior Attainment unit costs	57.94	57.94		

SEBDOS

			FSM	Prior Attmt	Estimated	Trade Union
8712252	Wexham Court Primary School	P	£9,233.99	£6,816.50	£16,050.48	£491.18
8712255	Penn Wood Primary and Nursery School	P	£11,812.44	£14,362.92	£26,175.37	£453.46
8712256	Claycots Primary	P	£18,797.37	£20,328.72	£39,126.09	£854.44
8713070	St. Mary's C E Primary School	P	£7,271.85	£10,823.81	£18,095.66	£412.46
8713353	OUR LADY OF PEACE R.C.INFANT	P	£2,015.30	£9,002.30	£11,017.61	£218.94
8713357	Our Lady of Peace Junior	P	£3,523.34	£2,359.64	£5,882.99	£290.28
8713363	St. Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School	P	£3,293.15	£7,744.24	£11,037.39	£309.96
8713364	ST ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY	P	£4,148.78	£12,659.72	£16,808.50	£411.64
8713366	Khalsa Primary School	P	£3,251.40	£2,858.44	£6,109.83	£345.22
8713367	IQRA Slough Islamic Primary School	P	£14,085.90	£9,494.77	£23,580.67	£510.04
8715201	Priory School	P	£9,274.45	£11,288.20	£20,562.65	£594.50
8715202	Holy Family Catholic School	P	£1,197.08	£5,455.04	£6,652.12	£347.68
8715207	Pippins School	P	£1,212.40	£2,325.58	£3,537.98	£145.14
8714085	BEECHWOOD SCHOOL	S	£17,794.48	£11,753.59	£29,548.07	£248.49
8714089	Wexham School	S	£22,461.30	£15,760.23	£38,221.53	£259.71
8714700	St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School	S	£2,164.23	£0.00	£2,164.23	£206.25
8714800	St Joseph's Catholic High School	S	£8,155.04	£10,712.64	£18,867.68	£215.49
	TOTAL		£139,692.49	£153,746.36	£293,438.85	£6,314.88

Trade Union

Report to: Task and Finish Group

Report by: J Matthews

Subject: Review of SEBD Outreach Funding Methodology

Date: 9 December 2015

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This briefing examines the methodology behind the SEBD Outreach Service (SEBDOS) budget for all schools, i.e. those in the maintained and academy sector and primary and secondary phases, against the targeted pupils' relative need.
- 1.2. The methodology at an individual school level is identical in each sector across both phases. However, the delegated allocations are retained by individual academies, whereas, for maintained schools, allocations are de-delegated and passported to the Specialist Education Trust for the provision of the SEBDOS in agreement with Slough BC.
- 1.3. **The figures reported through the report in the text and tables are indicative based on the 2014.15 SEBDOS allocations (at the time of writing the 2015.16 allocations had not been provided by the LA) but the principles remain the same.**

2. Current Methodology

- 2.1. The current methodology is based upon two formulaic elements comprising the number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and the number of Low Attainment Pupils, these being the proxy indicators of children that will be more likely to require support from SEBDOS.
- 2.2. A cash value is assigned to each phase (currently £479k for Primary and £126k for Secondary), each of which is then split in equal values between the FSM and Low Attainment elements (i.e. £239k for Primary schools across each element and £63k for Secondary Schools across each element).
- 2.3. Then, in isolation in each phase and element, these cash values are divided by the relevant total pupils to produce a per pupil allocation and then multiplied by the number of pupils in each school to produce a school level allocation. This calculation is illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1 - Current Methodology of Budget Allocation

Details	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Total Funds	Difference Primary vs Secondary
Total cash values	£479,591.00	£126,019.00	£605,610.00	
FSM Allocation (50%)	£239,795.50	£63,009.50	£302,805.00	
Pupil numbers	3,245.04	1,527.52	4,772.56	
Per pupil allocation	£73.90	£41.25	£63.45	£32.65
Low Attainment Allocation (50%)	£239,795.50	£63,009.50	£302,805.00	
Pupil numbers	3,529.25	1,697.19	5,226.43	
Per pupil allocation	£67.95	£37.13	£57.94	£30.82
Total per pupil allocation	£70.80	£39.08	£60.57	£31.72

2.4. Here we can see that the funds provided for a primary school pupil in respect of FSM is £73.90 compared to £41.25 for a secondary school pupil, i.e. £32.65 (79.2%) more. Similarly for Low Attainment the funds provided for a primary school pupil are £67.95 compared to £37.13 for a secondary school pupil, i.e. £30.82 (83.0%) more. Overall primary aged children are funded at £31.72 (81.2%) more than Secondary aged children.

2.5. This suggests that the relative needs of primary aged children requiring SEBDOS support are significantly greater than that of their secondary peers.

2.6. The historic rationale behind this allocation methodology in terms of the cash split between the FSM element and the Low Attainment element and also the higher weighting towards Primary aged pupils has not been identified.

2.7. However, what is clear is that it is not the case that primary aged children have greater need, and in fact the need for primary aged children is equal to that of secondary aged children. For this reason it is proposed that the allocation methodology should be amended to reflect this.

3. Proposed Methodology

3.1. Under the proposed methodology it is suggested that the cash allocations across FSM and Low Attainment remain as they are but that the per pupil allocations are calculated globally rather than isolated within each age phasing to produce parity in terms of the per pupil allocations in each phase.

3.2. This calculation is outlined in table 2.

Table 2 - Proposed Methodology of Budget Allocation

Details	All Schools FSM	All Schools Low Attainment	Total Funds
Total cash values	£302,805.00	£302,805.00	£605,610.00
Pupil numbers	4,772.56	5,226.43	9,998.99
Per pupil allocation	£63.45	£57.94	£60.57

- 3.3. This approach will result in an identical per pupil allocation in each phase for FSM pupils of £63.45 and for Low Attainment pupils £57.84.
- 3.4. As you can see by comparing tables 1 and 2 the total funds remain constant at £605k as does the total per pupil funding level of £60.57 (although in the current methodology this is the average pupil unit funding of the 2 phases).
- 3.5. The rates differ between target groups because the total number of eligible pupils within the Low Attainment group is higher than that in the FSM group.

4. Impact

- 4.1. The proposal has no overall impact on the total funds available for the service or for schools per se but naturally it will shift funds from the primary sector into the secondary sector and so will mean that individual school budget allocations will change as a result. This can be seen from the changes in per pupil funds in each age phase between tables 1 and 2.
- 4.2. For the maintained sector this means that the level of support that can be accessed 'free of charge' (that is reflecting the de-delegated sum specific to a school) will change and that for the academy sector the actual cash level of school budgets will change.
- 4.3. The overall impact would be to shift £69k from the primary sector into the secondary sector, represented by £34k re FSM and £35k re Low Attainment.
- 4.4. In terms of SEBDOS itself this could have an impact on funding if this diverts more funds to academies that do not buy back the service. This is an area that the service will keep under review.
- 4.5. Appendix A at the end of this document identifies the indicative impact on a school by school basis. **However what must be borne in mind is that the proposal looks to install parity of funding to reflect the existing parity in need at a pupil level and not to protect historic school by school funding allocations.**

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. The inevitable and obvious consequence of changing any formulaic allocation of a fixed sum of funding is that, on a school by school level, there will be changes in the level of funds that are allocated.
- 5.2. However this proposal is focussed on prioritising and meeting the educational needs of children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties by ensuring that there is equity in the opportunity for them to access this provision regardless of the age of the child, bearing in mind that there is no difference in the needs of the different aged children.
It is proposed to implement this change of methodology with effect from the 2016/17 financial year. Schools Forum support for this approach would be welcomed.

School by School Analysis of Current Methodology vs Proposed Methodology

School	FSM (Ever 6)				Low Attainment				Total		
	Pupil Nos	Alloc current method	Alloc NEW method	Change in Alloc Reduce (-) Increase (+)	Pupil Nos	Alloc current method	Alloc NEW method	Change in Alloc Reduce (-) Increase (+)	Alloc current method	Alloc NEW method	Change in Alloc Reduce (-) Increase (+)
		£	£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£
Western House Primary School	100.94	7,459	6,404	(1,055)	136.77	9,293	7,924	(1,369)	16,752	14,328	(2,424)
PARLAUNT PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL	152.83	11,293	9,696	(1,597)	165.22	11,226	9,572	(1,654)	22,519	19,268	(3,251)
Wexham Court Primary School	149.34	11,035	9,475	(1,560)	102.83	6,987	5,958	(1,029)	18,022	15,433	(2,589)
Penn Wood Primary and Nursery Sch	176.05	13,009	11,170	(1,839)	214.20	14,554	12,410	(2,144)	27,563	23,580	(3,983)
Claycots Primary	285.46	21,095	18,113	(2,982)	290.36	19,729	16,823	(2,906)	40,824	34,936	(5,888)
St. Mary's C E Primary School	115.68	8,548	7,339	(1,209)	177.21	12,041	10,267	(1,774)	20,589	17,606	(2,983)
OUR LADY OF PEACE R.C.INFANT	41.31	3,052	2,621	(431)	117.68	7,996	6,818	(1,178)	11,048	9,439	(1,609)
Our Lady of Peace Junior	47.73	3,527	3,028	(499)	48.86	3,320	2,831	(489)	6,847	5,859	(988)
St. Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School	56.06	4,143	3,557	(586)	111.80	7,596	6,477	(1,119)	11,739	10,034	(1,705)
ST ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY	56.21	4,154	3,566	(588)	190.85	12,968	11,057	(1,911)	17,122	14,623	(2,499)
Khalsa Primary School	54.00	3,990	3,426	(564)	36.52	2,482	2,116	(366)	6,472	5,542	(930)
IQRA Slough Islamic Primary School	226.00	16,701	14,340	(2,361)	138.08	9,382	8,000	(1,382)	26,083	22,340	(3,743)
Priory School	134.27	9,922	8,519	(1,403)	176.43	11,988	10,222	(1,766)	21,910	18,741	(3,169)
Holy Family Catholic School	20.95	1,548	1,329	(219)	81.30	5,524	4,711	(813)	7,072	6,040	(1,032)
Pippins School	18.69	1,381	1,186	(195)	40.62	2,760	2,354	(406)	4,141	3,540	(601)
Willow Primary School	100.97	7,461	6,406	(1,055)	82.63	5,614	4,787	(827)	13,075	11,193	(1,882)
James Elliman Academy	161.77	11,954	10,264	(1,690)	157.57	10,706	9,129	(1,577)	22,660	19,393	(3,267)
Colnbrook C.E. Primary School	52.60	3,887	3,338	(549)	78.76	5,351	4,563	(788)	9,238	7,901	(1,337)
Cippenham Infant School	26.70	1,973	1,694	(279)	68.53	4,657	3,971	(686)	6,630	5,665	(965)
Godolphin Infant School	108.30	8,003	6,871	(1,132)	160.54	10,908	9,301	(1,607)	18,911	16,172	(2,739)
The Godolphin Junior School	180.77	13,358	11,469	(1,889)	82.13	5,580	4,758	(822)	18,938	16,227	(2,711)
Marish Primary School	186.92	13,813	11,860	(1,953)	157.76	10,719	9,140	(1,579)	24,532	21,000	(3,532)
Cippenham Primary School	191.15	14,125	12,129	(1,996)	125.21	8,507	7,254	(1,253)	22,632	19,383	(3,249)
Castleview School	30.98	2,289	1,965	(324)	34.05	2,314	1,973	(341)	4,603	3,938	(665)
Lynch Hill School	197.52	14,596	12,533	(2,063)	174.72	11,871	10,123	(1,748)	26,467	22,656	(3,811)

School	FSM (Ever 6)				Low Attainment				Total		
	Pupil Nos	Alloc current method £	Alloc NEW method £	Change in Alloc Reduce (-) Increase (+) £	Pupil Nos	Alloc current method £	Alloc NEW method £	Change in Alloc Reduce (-) Increase (+) £	Alloc current method £	Alloc NEW method £	Change in Alloc Reduce (-) Increase (+) £
Ryvers School	107.43	7,939	6,816	(1,123)	87.23	5,927	5,054	(873)	13,866	11,870	(1,996)
Foxborough Primary School	79.04	5,841	5,015	(826)	72.66	4,937	4,210	(727)	10,778	9,225	(1,553)
Montem Primary School	185.38	13,699	11,762	(1,937)	218.70	14,860	12,671	(2,189)	28,559	24,433	(4,126)
Primary Schools	3,245.04	239,795	205,891	(33,904)	3,529.25	239,797	204,474	(35,323)	479,592	410,365	(69,227)
BEECHWOOD SCHOOL	274.63	11,328	17,424	6,096	196.05	7,278	11,358	4,080	18,606	28,782	10,176
Wexham School	339.37	13,999	21,532	7,533	291.58	10,825	16,893	6,068	24,824	38,425	13,601
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School	23.85	984	1,513	529	0.00	0	0	0	984	1,513	529
St Joseph's Catholic High School	127.81	5,272	8,109	2,837	197.11	7,318	11,420	4,102	12,590	19,529	6,939
BAYLIS COURT SCHOOL	156.00	6,435	9,898	3,463	197.40	7,328	11,437	4,109	13,763	21,335	7,572
Slough & Eton CofE Bus & Ent College	226.76	9,354	14,387	5,033	325.05	12,068	18,834	6,766	21,422	33,221	11,799
LANGLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL	19.00	784	1,205	421	0.00	0	0	0	784	1,205	421
Herschel Grammar School	36.00	1,485	2,284	799	2.23	83	129	46	1,568	2,413	845
Upton Court Grammar School	31.00	1,279	1,967	688	2.25	84	131	47	1,363	2,098	735
THE WESTGATE SCHOOL	135.98	5,609	8,627	3,018	238.46	8,853	13,816	4,963	14,462	22,443	7,981
The Langley Academy	157.13	6,482	9,969	3,487	247.06	9,172	14,314	5,142	15,654	24,283	8,629
Secondary Schools	1,527.52	63,011	96,915	33,904	1,697.19	63,009	98,332	35,323	126,020	195,247	69,227
Total	4,772.56	302,806	302,806	0	5,226.43	302,806	302,806	0	605,612	605,612	0

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
9th December 2015

Split Site Criteria 2016-17
(Directorate of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Schools' Forum of the split site criteria enhancement for 2016-17.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The criteria has been enhanced, the following 3 criteria will need to be met in order to be considered for split site funding:

1. The Site needs to be at least 500 kilometres apart from each other as the crow flies, not adjacent streets and not connected by a footpath.
 2. The additional site does not qualify for an individual school budget share.
 3. At least 20% of the pupils are taught on each site on a daily basis.
- 2.1 A Lump sum of £34,300 will be allocated each year this has not changed.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Suggestion, from the Department For Education (DFE) that the current criteria needs more detail, hence it has been enhanced.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

None.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 None.

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

None

Contact for further information

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Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2014 and ongoing V1 October 2015

Issue and Decision	Schools Forum date	Schools Forum agenda item no.
Changes to Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations 2014 A number of changes were noted including: Schools Forum is now required to discuss places being commissioned by the LA and others in special schools, resource units and AP as well as arrangements for paying top ups; funding for each Alternative Provision place will increase from £8,000 to £10,000 per annum. It was agreed that a brief response to the consultation would be sent voicing concern about the overall funding pressures on the DSG and the impact on these overall on schools' budgets.	17/09/14	5
Centrally Held DSG Underspend It was agreed that: £60,000 from 2013-14 DSG underspend be allocated to the Slough Learning Partnership to cover operating costs and contingency until the end of August 2015 and £100,000 be allocated to enable the Slough Learning Partnership to deliver a range of additional school improvement services during 2014-15. The proposals regarding allocation to the High Needs Block and Schools Block were deferred until the blocks are agreed at a future meeting.	17/09/14	6
PFI It was noted that SBC had been accepted as one of only 4 LAs taking part in the DfE pilot to identify potential savings in PFI contracts.	17/09/14	8
Schools Funding levels - letter to Secretary of State Members noted a response from David Laws MP to the letter sent to the Secretary of State.	12/11/14	3
St Joseph's update An update was provided on the Schools Forum 2012 grant from headroom to support St Joseph's finance and development plan and financial stability over 3 to 5 years. It was noted that the school had been able to return £400,000 in 2013 and has utilised the remaining funding as was originally intended.	12/11/14	3
Amendment to previous minutes It was noted that the reference in the previous minutes to the increase in value of an Alternative Provision place is an increase to 'base funding'.	12/11/14	3
Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring It was agreed that a review of the Balance Control Mechanism would take place when the Schools Forum considers the Scheme for Financing Schools for 15/16.	12/11/14	4
Budget process / formula Schools Forum agreed: the introduction of a 'reception uplift' in 2015/16; the introduction of capping at 3% in 2015/16 and that the existing formula factors should remain for 2015/16.	12/11/14	5
Growth Fund 2015/16 Schools Forum agreed to create a Growth Fund for 2015/16. It was agreed that the fund should be based on full AWPU for the relevant part of the year for 2015/16.	10/12/14	6
Centrally Retained DSG Underspend The principle of distributing the final underspend by numbers on roll was re-affirmed.	10/12/14	7
De-delegated Budgets: SEBDOS (formerly known as the Behaviour Support Service) and Trades Union) With regard to the budget for SEBDOS (previously known as Behaviour Support), the relevant maintained schools' members of the Schools Forum voted to approve de-delegation in both phases at the unit costs proposed. Decision regarding de-delegation of the Trades Union budget was deferred until January 2015.	10/12/14	8
Membership		

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2014 and ongoing V1 October 2015

Maggie Stacey had stood down from Schools Forum and thanks was given for her long service and valuable contributions. Schools Forum also thanked Mary Sparrow, who is leaving Slough, for her valuable contributions to the Forum. It was agreed that academy proprietors be asked to fill the three academy member vacancies and Schools Forum suggested a primary member and two secondary members in order to maintain an appropriate phase balance. A replacement maintained secondary school member is also to be found.	10/12/14	9
Membership		
Angela Mellish (St Bernard's Grammar School) was welcomed to the Schools Forum as the new maintained secondary school member.	14/01/15	1
Minutes of previous meeting 10th December 2014		
It was reported that confirmation had been given by the LA (Joseph Holmes) that no monies would be top-sliced from the DSG in future without a request to Schools Forum and its subsequent approval.	14/01/15	3
It was noted that Louise Lund was no longer a member of Schools Forum as she is no longer in a PVI setting and therefore not eligible and that a replacement was being sought.	14/01/15	3
Centrally Retained DSG Underspend		
Schools Forum agreed that the £998k underspend be redistributed to schools but not that the pensions deficit owed be netted off; schools to be notified of their pensions liability and billed separately from any underspend payment.	14/01/15	5
Centrally Retained DSG 2015/16		
The centrally retained DSG 15/16 budget figure for Cambridge Education was agreed. Further detail is to be brought back to Schools Forum of the allocation of the individual strands of funding and the associated justification for spend. LA retained element: the bottom line figure of £241,034 was agreed. A report will be brought to the March Schools Forum of 14/15 anticipated spend and what the budgets are likely to be spent on in 2015/16. This will be a matter for final decision in March. The £241,034 to be held in reserve pending the further report in March.	14/01/15	6
2015/16 Budget Process		
Schools Forum noted the 2015-16 formula factors and timetable (factors and budget pro-forma are predicated on the recommendations of the Schools Forum 5-16 formula Task and Finish group). To be submitted to the DfE following Council ratification.	14/01/15	7
2015-16 DSG Schools Block and de-delegation of Trade Union support budget		
Schools Forum noted the Schools Block budget for 2015-16. De-delegation of Trade Union support: the 3 maintained primary schools' members present voted unanimously in favour of de-delegation at the current unit cost. Both secondary maintained schools members present voted in favour of de-delegation at the current unit cost.	14/01/15	8
2015-16 DSG Blocks (High Needs Block)		
Schools Forum agreed to carry forward £600,000 from 2014/15.	14/01/15	9
Membership		
Sally Eaton attended the meeting as an observer, with a view to taking on the role of member representing the PVIs. Maggie Waller thanked Jean Cameron for her valuable contributions and support to both the Schools Forum and the Early Years Task and Finish Group over many years as this was her last meeting. A new member to represent Children's Centres is being sought (<i>since meeting advised: Emma Slaughter, Interim Head of Children's Centres</i>).	25/03/15	1
PFI		
It was noted that the £500,000 previously removed from the DSG in 2014/15 in respect of PFI had been returned and would be distributed to all schools and academies imminently. The £500,000 for 2015/16, removed in error, will also be returned.	25/03/15	3
Commissioning of Places in Special Settings		
It was noted that an annual review of places should take place (report to Schools Forum)	25/03/15	4

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2014 and ongoing V1 October 2015

Early Years		
Schools Forum agreed the 2015/16 Early Years centrally held budgets and noted the summary of the Early Years block budget.2015/16 including forecast growth.	25/03/15	6
Membership		
John Constable is to write to academy proprietors regarding the three membership vacancies, following a review of the January 2015 census.	25/03/15	12
Membership		
New members, Emma Slaughter (new Children's Centres' member) and Sally Eaton (new PVI member), were welcomed to the meeting.	06/05/15	1
Schools Forum suggested Eddie Neighbour and Jo Matthews as potential members for academy proprietors to consider.	06/05/15	3
School Improvement Budget 2015-16 Update from Cambridge Education		
The revised funding for 15/16 was noted as £932,905 which is a reduction of £310k. It was agreed that Schools Forum, at the July meeting, will consider the business cases put forward and decide which of the the priorities identified will be funded from the £310k.	06/05/15	4
PFI 2015/16		
It was noted that the £500,000 (part of SBC's PFI contribution for 15/16) that was not added to the DSG in 15/16 and given to schools would be returned to schools. Appendix A noted that the £500k will be part of the future budgets whatever decisions are made. Beverley Pennekett (EFA) advised that once schools have their budgets they cannot be re-determined in-year and if such an adjustment is required in-year to the Schools Budget an application can be made to the Minister to dis-apply this regulation. It was agreed that a joint letter would go from the LA and the Schools Forum seeking to re-distribute this year and to distribute based on numbers on roll .	06/05/15	5
PFI School Improvement Savings		
Schools Forum was asked to consider using £200k of the savings identified in the centrally-retained budgets for School Improvement (minute 411 above) to contribute to SBC's funding of the School's PFI scheme in 2015-16. It was agreed that this proposal would come back to the Schools Forum meeting in July along with any other proposals (supported by a business case) for consideration and decision. Note the 2 PFI reports are both noted here as item 5 as one had been omitted from the agenda list.	06/05/15	5
Growth Fund Out-Turn 2014 - 15		
Schools Forum agreed to carry forward an additional £88,000 to the Growth Fund for 2015 - 16. It was confirmed that the 2015 - 16 total Growth Fund was now approximately £1.25 million.	06/05/15	6
High Needs Block		
Schools Forum noted the detail of the High Needs Block centrally retained budgets for SBC and Cambridge Education, as set out in the two appendices to the report.	06/05/15	7
2014/15 EarlyYears Block Carry Forward		
Schools Forum noted that the Early Years DSG is currently forecast to be under-spent by £1,492,487 and approved the carry forward of this sum to ensure compliance with statutory duties through the spending outlined in Appendix A of the report.	23/09/15	4
Centrally Retained Budgets Out Turn		
Schools Forum agreed that the 14-15 underspend of £60,010 in the Schools Block be carried forward into the Growth Fund in order to reduce the 16-17 budget topslice for growth. Schools Forum agreed that the Early Years block underspend 2014-15 of £6,597 should remain within Early Years. Schools Forum noted that the High Needs Block underspend will be used to fund expected growth in High Needs places and top ups in 2016-17 plus any outstanding prior commitments. For Cambridge Education underspend it was agreed that proposals would be brought to Schools Forum at the next meeting. It was noted that the Early Years element had already been agreed in item 4 of the agenda (above).	23/09/15	6
School Improvement Underspend		

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2014 and ongoing V1 October 2015

<p>Schools Forum agreed to allocate £35,000 of these savings to support Our Lady of Peace Infant and Nursery School and Our Lady of Peace Junior School in amalgamating to establish an all-through primary school.</p> <p>Schools Forum agreed to allocate an initial £70,000 to support the Headteachers' collaborative request regarding Recruitment and Retention.</p> <p>Schools Forum did not agree to support the use of £200,000 of the School Improvement savings to contribute to the Council's funding of its contribution to the schools' PFI scheme.</p> <p>It was agreed that, following the allocations above, the remaining balance of the underspend would be considered at the next meeting alongside the Cambridge Education underspend (see agenda item 6 above).</p>	23/09/15	7
Schools Forum Self Assessment Review and Updated Constitution		
<p>Schools Forum supported the suggested changes in the self-assessment review (Appendix A).</p> <p>Schools Forum noted the updated Constitution (Appendix B) and commended this to the LA for approval.</p>	23/09/15	8
Review of Scheme for Financing Schools		
<p>Schools Forum agreed two amendments to the Scheme for Financing Schools:</p> <p>Schools should make a register of business and other interests publicly available e.g. on a publicly accessible website (2.9 of Scheme)</p> <p>New wording to clarify borrowing by schools, for example, in relation to financial leases (3.6 of Scheme)</p> <p>Schools Forum requested that the wording of the proposed change regarding the revenue Balance Control Mechanism be clarified and brought to the next meeting (4.2 of Scheme).</p>	23/09/15	9
Minutes of previous meeting 23rd September 2015		
<p>It was noted that the LA Democratic Services have confirmed that no further formal approval is required of the Schools Forum Constitution, following its approval by the Schools Forum at the 23rd September meeting.</p>	06/10/15	3
Schools and Early Years Finance regulations 2015 - DfE Consultation		
<p>The LA is to respond to the DfE consultation and it was agreed that the response would be shared with the Chair and that Schools Forum would also respond. The Chair will circulate to members of the Forum for input.</p>	06/10/15	4
School Improvement Underspend		
<p>Final decisions were made to allocate the remaining balance of the £308,000 2015/16 underspend in the centrally retained school improvement budget. Following allocations agreed at the 23rd September meeting - see above - to support teacher recruitment and Our Lady of Peace amalgamation, a further £13,000 was agreed to offset the £26,000 commitment of secondary Headteachers to recruitment research.</p> <p>It was agreed that the remaining £190,000 will be transferred to the High Needs Block to contribute to the easing of anticipated pressures on expenditure.</p> <p>From the final Cambridge Education School Improvement underspend for 2014-15 of £210,000, it was agreed to support the LA proposal for an allocation of £20,000 to fund a piece of work to scope out future school improvement options.</p> <p>Funding of £35,000 was also agreed for a project with Rising Stars focussed on boosting performance for Year 6 pupils, related to the new testing requirements.</p> <p>Further proposals for the remaining £155,000 balance will be brought to Schools Forum in December.</p>	06/10/15	5

Slough Schools' Forum – 2015-16 Forward Agenda Plan

Wednesday 9th December 2015

No.	Description	Lead
1.	Highlights from spending review	George Grant / Coral Miller
2.	School funding consultation: responses received and consultation with Schools Forum	Coral Miller
3.	Growth Fund Update 2015 -16: estimated requirement for 16-17	Coral Miller / Tony Madden
4.	Centrally retained items Schools Block approval	Coral Miller / Robin Crofts
5.	De- delegated items 2016/17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trades Union • Behavioural support: SEBD Outreach Service (SEBDOS) 	Coral Miller
6.	Review of SEBD Outreach Funding Methodology	Jo Matthews
7.	Split site criteria review	Coral Miller
8.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, SENSOG and Early Years (verbal)	Maggie Waller
9.	Cambridge Education (verbal)	Robin Crofts
10.	Academies update (verbal)	Robin Crofts
11.	2015-16 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log	Maggie Waller

Tuesday 12th January 2016

No.	Description	Lead
1.	2016/17 funding formula decision by SBC	Coral Miller
2.	Draft version of the Schools Block budgets 2016-17 for information with comparison with 2015-16 budgets including amounts being transferred to EFA	Coral Miller
3.	2016/17 Budget Timetable	Coral Miller
4.	Confirmation of the DSG allocation for 2016-17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools Block • High Needs • Early Years 	Coral Miller
5.	Cambridge Education centrally retained 2014/15 school improvement underspend (allocation of final balance to be agreed)	Robin Crofts
6.	School Improvement Future Options	TBC
7.	Centrally retained items Early Years - approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC • CE 	Coral Miller Robin Crofts
8.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, SENSOG and Early Years (verbal)	Maggie Waller
9.	Cambridge Education	Robin Crofts
10.	Academies update	Robin Crofts
11.	2015-16 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log	Maggie Waller

Tuesday 8th March 2016

No.	Description	Lead
1.	Confirmation on when the indicative budgets will be adjusted to the final budgets where applicable 2016-17.	Coral Miller
2.	Early Years formula	Coral Miller
3.	Confirm High Needs places for 2016-17 Academic year, with a report on any rejected and approved business cases for additional places.	Paul Wilson
4.	Annual consultation on the 2016-17 High Needs budget.	Coral Miller /maybe Trust
5.	Centrally retained items High needs block for consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC • CE 	Coral Miller\maybe Trust - Robin Crofts
6.	Review of Scheme for Financing Schools.	Coral Miller
7.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, SENSOG and Early Years (verbal)	Maggie Waller
8.	Cambridge Education	Robin Crofts
9.	Academies update	Robin Crofts
10.	2015-16 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log	Maggie Waller

Wednesday 11th May 2016

	To be confirmed nearer the time	
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Wednesday 6th July 2016

No.	Description	Lead
1.	14/15 Update on 2 year block funding spend and carry forward if required.	Robin Croft and Nandita Sirker
2.	Centrally retained Out-turn reports 2015-16 report. (HN,EY,SB). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC • CE 	Coral Miller Robin Crofts
3.	Review of Scheme for Financing Schools.	Coral Miller
4.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, SENSOG and Early Years (verbal)	Maggie Waller
5.	Cambridge Education	Robin Crofts
6.	Academies update	Robin Crofts
7.	2016-17 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log	Maggie Waller
8.	Dates and venues of next year's meetings	Coral Miller and clerk

Proposed meeting frequency for academic year 2016/2017

October 2016
 December 2016
 January 2017
 March 2017
 May 2017
 July 2017