

SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM

SCHOOLS GROUP:

Maggie Waller (Chair), John Constable (Vice-Chair), Virginia Barrett, Rachel Cartwright, Gillian Coffey, Sally Eaton, Philip Gregory, Kathleen Higgins, Helen Huntley, Jo Matthews, Paul McAteer, Navroop Mehat, Angela Mellish, Eddie Neighbour, Carol Pearce, Jon Reekie, Debbie Richards, Jo Rockall, Kate Webb, Nicky Willis and Councillor Sabia Hussain

OBSERVERS:

None

ATTENDEES

None

LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Rachel Cartwright, Sarah Forsyth, George Grant and Coral Miller Robert Hardy, Johnny Kyriacou, Nabila Malik (Clerk), Coral Miller, Jo Moxon

DATE & TIME: THURSDAY, 13TH OCTOBER, 2016 AT 8.00 AM
BEECHWOOD RESEARCH AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONG
READINGS LANE, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE, SL2 1QE

AGENDA

Page

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 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.



3. Previous School Forum Minutes 14th June, 2016 **(Pages 1 - 8)**
4. Membership **(Pages 9 - 12)**
5. Update on National Fair Funding **(Pages 13 - 14)**
6. Early Years Block update **(Pages 15 - 22)**
7. High Needs Block and SEN update: financial issues and implications including commissioning of SEN places and financial forecast for year end 2016/17 **(Pages 23 - 26)**
8. Centrally retained out-turn reports 2015-16 (High Needs, Early Years and Schools Block) **(Pages 27 - 32)**
9. Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years (verbal)
10. Cambridge Education update (verbal)
11. Academies update (verbal)
12. 2016-17 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log **(Pages 33 - 42)**

Slough Schools Forum- Meeting held on Tuesday, 14th June, 2016

Present: Maggie Waller, Holy Family Primary School (Chair)
John Constable, Langley Grammar School (Vice-Chair)
Gillian Coffey, Lynch Hill Primary School
Kathleen Higgins, Beechwood Secondary School
Helen Huntley, Haybrook College / PRU
Paul McAteer, Slough and Eton C of E Business and Enterprise College
Navroop Mehat, Wexham Court Primary School
Angela Mellish, St Bernard's Grammar School
Eddie Neighbour, Upton Court Grammar School
Jon Reekie, Baylis Court Trust MAT / Godolphin Infant School
Jo Rockall, Herschel Grammar School
Nicky Willis, Cippenham Primary School

Cambridge Education:

Robin Crofts

Officers: Krutika Pau, George Grant, Coral Miller and Nabila Malik
(Clerk)

Apologies: Virginia Barrett, Sally Eaton, Carol Pearce, Debbie Richards, Philip Gregory, Sharon Scott

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies were noted from: Virginia Barrett, Sally Eaton, Carol Pearce, Debbie Richards, Philip Gregory and Sharon Scott.

Maggie Waller introduced David Johnson, interim PFI Manager.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Matters arising – non-agenda updates from last meeting

Items 481/482 - updated figures for the 2016-17 High Needs Block and Early Years Block had been included in the papers.

With regard to the Early Years Block, Rachel Cartwright drew attention to the mismatch in the centrally retained budgets which do not reflect where the growth has been in the PVI sector as it is based on historical growth. Rachel to discuss with Finance outside the meeting.

Robin Crofts also raised the growing need to look at the Early Years formula; to be discussed by Rachel, Robin and the LA outside the meeting.

An action to provide clarification of the PFI factor and how it is calculated is to be completed.

Item 480: Nicky Willis raised the strong concern being expressed by some schools regarding finance issues. George Grant acknowledged that there were problems with the end of year reports for maintained schools with the move from Oracle to the new Agresso financial system being implemented. Avarto had struggled to meet expectations and did not have the right level of staff in place. He is working with Avarto and the LA contract team to resolve matters. The end of year reports are out now though there are inaccuracies and there were also delays to Imprest accounts. Schools are being encouraged to set up their own bank accounts.

Krutika Pau said that she had brought the concerns expressed at SSEF to the attention of the new Leader of the Council and this is with the Chief Executive.

Helen Huntley said that the issue was not just with maintained schools but that Haybrook College was awaiting payment of centrally retained funding. Rachel Cartwright referred to concerns about payments to the PVI settings which are causing cash flow problems.

496. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Schools Forum members re-elected Maggie Waller as Chair and John Constable as Vice-Chair.

497. 2017-18 DfE funding proposals and Consultations for National Funding

Coral Miller updated the Schools Forum on the National Funding Formula. Phase 2 consultation is expected to come out before the summer holiday; it is likely to be a 12-week consultation period. DfE is expected to 'take the consultation returns seriously'.

Coral indicated that de-delegation remains uncertain for the future; the Growth Fund is likely to be based on historical information and the Schools Block will be ring fenced which it has not been to date.

Phase 2 should contain detailed information about proposed funding rates etc. and allow assessment of the impact on individual schools' budgets. The main focus will be on the Schools Block which needs to be confirmed by Jan 2017 to allow time for LA budget setting process.

The Early Years consultation is still expected over the summer.

Robin Crofts mentioned that High Needs will be a future pressure and the Schools Block being ring fenced exacerbates this as we will not be able to move funds to the High Needs Block as we have done recently. Helen Huntley too raised concern e.g. over Alternative Provision funding and High Needs issues not yet resolved; Jo Matthews echoed the concern about the likely increase in out borough expensive placements despite the increase in in-borough places.

It was agreed that the July Schools Forum meeting would be cancelled but the date held for an opportunity to meet to consider the National Funding Formula Phase 2 consultation if it has been published.

498. Growth Fund out turn 2016-17

It was agreed that the underspend from the 2015-16 Growth Fund of £187k to be carried forward to 2016-17.

It was noted that the 2016-17 Growth Fund will be £1.287million including the carry forward; the current estimated demand is £1.169 million.

Robin Crofts indicated that it may be necessary to draw on the increased places (+2 places) from the autumn term.

Nicky Willis noted that, as more maintained schools become academies, there may be an increased pressure on costs.

499. Use of centrally retained DSG in 2016-17

It was noted that Option 6 for the provision of School Improvement was being implemented: a joint approach with Cambridge Education and the Slough Teaching Schools Alliance (STSA).

The Cambridge Education contract will use less of the allocated centrally retained DSG than originally envisaged and the report set out some suggestions regarding the use of underspend:

- Establishing a Schools Portal, including IT and administrative support, to provide a central point of information for schools. John Constable presented some brief information about Enfield's portal and the idea of a Slough Schools Portal was welcomed. Schools' ideas welcomed.
- Developing a process and system for peer review/challenge in consultation with neighbouring LAs and using some centrally retained DSG money to fund peer challenge leader training for headteachers who may wish to take part in this.
- School support fund for use by Slough Teaching Schools Alliance to promote school-to-school support. The approximate cost would be £75k per year for two years.

These were agreed in principle.

500. Slough Teaching School Alliance

Slough Learning Partnership (SLP) will be wound down as a separate organisation with the Slough Teaching School Alliance (STSA) carrying forward the school improvement work as part of a joint approach with Cambridge Education.

The Schools Forum endorsed the transfer of SLP's funding reserves (which include some historic funding from DSG underspend) from SLP to STSA to fund staffing costs for two years.

Schools Forum also agreed to support the school support fund (see previous minute) to backfill schools when they are supporting other schools (approximately £75k p.a. for two years).

501. New centrally held DSG 2017-18

This report was for information setting out the 2017-18 new Centrally Retained Block (separate from Schools, High Needs and Early Years blocks) which will bring together centrally retained DSG and Education Services Grant (ESG) retained duties. Schools Forum noted the new arrangements.

Maggie Waller asked for clarification about the ESG and it was confirmed that the figures provided were only for DSG centrally retained and the ESG was in addition. It was noted that the ESG is likely to be ring fenced under the new arrangements.

Debbie Richards asked about the retained funding for safeguarding and whether it included the costs of audit of safeguarding. This was confirmed to be the case and Krutika Pau agreed to follow this up with the Trust and contact the two Headteacher phase groups.

It was noted that if the CERA funding is not included in future years this will have an impact as SBC has used this for e.g. suitability surveys.

Nicky Willis asked if the LA would identify who is responsible for each centrally retained budget line by line as this would be very helpful. This was agreed as an action.

502. PFI proposal

LA requested the use of £500k from DSG Schools Block to fund the PFI affordability gap, which is currently paid from SBC's general fund. This request arises from SBC funding reductions, conversion of two of the three PFI schools to academy status, and the move towards the National Funding Formula.

There was some discussion and a number of questions raised. Officers were asked to define the DfE 'clear advice' referred to in the report and it was confirmed that this was from conversations with LA officers and emails.

Nicky Willis noted that only one of the two maintained 'PFI' schools would convert by 1st September and the other was a later time frame.

It was asked what risk there was to the schools involved if the request was not agreed; this was not clear and was referred to as a 'grey area'.

Kathleen Higgins clarified that the move to academy status makes no difference to the affordability gap and the DfE does not expect the PFI schools to pick up the affordability gap. She stated that fact that they have commenced the process of converting to academy status has not led to this needing to be addressed; this has been an ongoing issue for a considerable time.

Jo Rockall referred to the last line of paragraph 4.4: *With the EFA's new way of working they would require that all schools' costs and budgets are within the DSG School Block Budget.* She asked what evidence there was of this given that the DSG is revenue funding. David Johnson referred to the PFI itself being capital but the gap between the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) was revenue.

Angela Mellish asked where the requested £500m would come from and it was confirmed that this would reduce the DSG.

John Constable referred to headteachers understanding the financial position and pressures for SBC but also referred to increased costs and the budget pressures for schools requiring headteachers to put the interests of their schools first.

Maggie Waller was sympathetic to the pressures faced by SBC but referred to the commitment given to schools at the time the PFI was undertaken that there would not be an adverse impact on schools.

The first phase of the DfE consultation on the National Funding Formula included a question about PFI and this has not been concluded so that this request seems premature.

The proposal was rejected as Schools Forum felt it was unwise to agree to any reduction in funding available for school budgets given the uncertainties about future funding.

503. Schools Forum Membership

Given the uncertainty about the future of Schools Forum, the proposal is to ask all those whose membership is coming to an end over the next 12 months if they are willing to remain in post until August 2017 year to provide continuity.

Name	Term of office ends
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Navroop Mehat	July 2016 (maintained)
Virginia Barrett (Kate Webb)	July 2016 (East Berkshire College)
Gillian Coffey	August 2016 (academy)
Maggie Waller	August 2016 (maintained)
Philip Gregory	August 2016 (nursery) remain
Debbie Richards	November 2016 (special) remain
Nicky Willis	March 2017 (academy)
Helen Huntley	May 2017 (academy)

If people are willing to extend their term of office the proposal that this be implemented will be put to headteachers, chairs of governors and academy proprietors.

504. Task group updates

There had been no meetings of the Task Groups and meetings will be arranged as necessary to respond to the National Funding Formula consultation and the implications for modelling budgets.

Robin Crofts reported back on the new arrangements for SENSOG. There had been a previous temporary combination of the High Needs Task Group and SEN SOG. SENSOG has been moved across to be part of the monthly SSEF meetings. The remit is to discuss school places and SEN place provision. There is a broader range of representation within SSEF now including nursery representation.

505. Cambridge Education

Robin Crofts updated on Cambridge Education (CE). matters The current CE contract comes to an end on 30 September 2016.

- Early Years & Children's Centres will move to Slough Children's Services Trust from 30 September.
- School services (Integrated Support Service, Education Psychology, SEN, School Improvement, Access, Admissions etc) revert to Local Authority
- In discussion with LA about revised 2-year contract arrangements for school improvement, statutory services and support services for SEN and educational psychology provision.

506. Academies Update

The national picture has changed slightly with the government not driving academy conversion for all schools through legislation but encouraging all schools. There are

currently about 6000 academies. Where an LA is no longer in a position to support its maintained schools they will be driven to convert and also where an LA is not performing well. The Regional Schools Commissioner is driving academisation of underperforming schools.

In Slough, 17,572 out of 29,540 pupils are now in academies – about 60%.

Robin Crofts also referred to recent updated guidance on schools causing concern which includes the changing role of the LA and the RSC; it can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-causing-concern--2>

507. Forward Plan and Key Decisions Log

The forward plan for 2016-17 academic year proposes six School Forum meetings spaced to deal with the budget cycle and also to take account of implications of the National Funding Formula. It was agreed that members wished to retain the start time of 8.00 a.m. for 8.15 a.m. but that the meetings would be held on a variety of days of the week.

The venue will remain as Beechwood School’s Conference Centre.

There is a Schools Forum meeting scheduled for July 6th 2016. It was agreed that this July Schools Forum meeting would be cancelled but the date held for an opportunity to meet to consider the National Funding Formula Phase 2 consultation if it has been published.

Please see details below for full listings of meeting dates for 2016/17.

Next meeting: Thursday 13th October, 8.00am for 8.15 am at Beechwood.

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday 13 th October 2016	8am	Beechwood conference centre
Tuesday 6 th December 2016	8am	Beechwood conference centre
Tuesday 10 th January 2017	8am	Beechwood conference centre
Tuesday 7 th March 2017	8am	Beechwood conference centre
Thursday 18 th May 2017	8am	Beechwood conference centre
Thursday 6 th July 2017	8am	Beechwood conference centre

**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
13th October 2016**

Schools Forum Membership

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update members of the Schools Forum on the position regarding membership, following an analysis of pupil numbers in the May census and correspondence with schools and academies in the summer term 2016.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools Forum notes the content of this report.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure that the membership of the Schools Forum is up to date, in line with regulations and representative of the schools and academies in Slough.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 No alternative options were considered.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Members of Schools Forum will recall that, at the meeting on 14th June 2016, it was proposed that those members whose terms of office end before 31 July 2017 be asked if they are willing to extend their office to that date, subject to the agreement of headteachers and chairs of governors of maintained schools and of academy proprietors.

- 5.2 The members in this position were:

- Navroop Mehat, Wexham Court Primary School (maintained)
- Maggie Waller, Holy Family School (maintained)
- Gillian Coffey, Lynch Hill Primary (academy)
- Nicky Willis, Cippenham Primary School (academy)
- Helen Huntley, Haybrook College (special academy & alternative provision)
- Philip Gregory, Baylis Court Nursery (nursery)
- Debbie Richards, Arbour Vale School ((maintained special)
- Virginia Barrett, East Berkshire College

5.2 Having sought the members' agreement to extend their term of office, a letter was sent to headteachers and chairs of governors of maintained schools and academy proprietors setting out the proposal. The reason for the proposal was stated as the need for continuity, experience and expertise on the Schools Forum at this time of great change when we anticipate the introduction of a national funding formula.

5.3 It was clarified in the letter that:

The extension of the term of office for Navroop Mehat and Maggie Waller was subject to agreement by headteachers and chairs of governors of maintained schools.

The extension of the term of office for Gillian Coffey, Nicky Willis and Helen Huntley was subject to agreement by academy proprietors.

The extension of the term of office for Philip Gregory was subject to agreement by nurseries.

As there is only one maintained special school in Slough, the extension of the term of office for Debbie Richards was subject to agreement by Arbour Vale School.

5.4 Responses were requested to the proposal by 15th July 2016. 11 responses were received by this date. 6 responses were from academies, 5 from maintained or VA schools. All the responses supported the proposals set out in 5.3 in broad terms. The proposal to extend the terms of office of Navroop Mehat and Maggie Waller was specifically approved by the five maintained schools who responded. The proposal to extend the terms of Gillian Coffey, Nicky Willis and Helen Huntley was supported by the six academies who responded.

Responses have subsequently been received to indicate that the extension to Philip Gregory's term of office is supported by the nursery schools, and that of Debbie Richards is supported by Arbour Vale School.

5.5 East Berkshire College has confirmed that the College Principal will be represented at Schools Forum meetings by Richard Kirkham (Director of Curriculum & Head of Langley College).

5.6 Since the June meeting of the Schools Forum an analysis of pupil numbers in academies and maintained schools has been carried out to check that the membership of the Schools Forum reflects appropriately the proportion of pupils being educated in the two sectors.

5.7 The May pupil census for Slough shows the proportion of pupils in academies, (excluding special and nursery) is now 61%, with the remaining 39% of pupils in maintained primary and secondary schools.

As there are 15 schools' and academies' members in total this means there should be 9 academy members and 6 maintained school members. There are currently 9 academy members and 6 maintained members, including one vacancy in the maintained sector, so no changes are required at this time.

- 5.8 It should be noted that this situation is likely to change as further schools become academies and a further review will be undertaken after the October census and at each census point going forward.
- 5.9 New members would be welcomed and there has been some interest in becoming a member of Schools Forum from one academy. Further suggestions /nominations were invited in the June letter referred to in paragraph 5 above and at least one proposal for membership was received from a primary academy. These nominations will be included in any future election if still current at that time.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

- 6.1 The Slough Schools Forum membership arrangements are in line with good practice for Schools Forums nationally.

Financial Implications

- 6.2 This report has no financial implications.

Access Implications

- 6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

All schools and academies were consulted – see 5 above.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

Maggie Waller
Chair of Slough Schools Forum
maggieeducation@aol.com

John Constable
Vice-Chair of Slough Schools Forum
johnconstable@lgs.slough.sch.uk

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Item 5
For Information Only

School Forum – October 2016

Brief update of the 2017-18 changes in the School Block Budget

School block Brief Update:

- 2017-18 has been rebased to match spending patterns.
- The ESG has now moved into the School block.
- APT modelling tool is available.
- No draft budget required in October to allow more time for modelling the impact.
- New IDACI (index of deprivation affecting children) banding.
- Centrally retained – No new commitment allowed and the DFE has recommended that the council comply with the regulation and return funding to the School block which has no commitment from 2013 or any on-going commitment.
- School national funding formula has been put back to 2019-20.

SBC is currently modelling the impact with Task and Finish Group.

For further information please see the link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-funding-arrangements-2017-to-2018>

Contact for further information

Coral Miller (interim Group Accountant, ECS)

Coral.miller@slough.gov.uk

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School Forum – October 2016

Early years block update

Currently the Early years block changes are being consulted on, and stakeholders had until the 22nd September to make their comments on the adjustments.

Briefly

- The new proposals for EY will be implemented in September 2017
- The 2017-18 budget will be 5/12th old system and 7/12th of the new EY formula if applicable.
- The national average rate will move from £4.56 to £4.88 for 3 to 4 year olds and from £5.09 to £5.39 for 2 year olds.
- The new formula (proposal) intends to give an additional 15 hour free for working parents, I think the combined income needs to be less than £100k?.
- The protection is that no LA will lose more than 10% once the EYNFF is fully operational. Which translates that LA could lose up to 10% of its funding in 2019-20 when the EYNFF needs to be fully implemented. Currently for 3-4 year olds the estimate is £10.318m (excluding working parents) so the reduction in the funding could be over £1m.
- Year on year losses will be protected by the use of transitional arrangements which will ensure that there is no more than a 5% reduction. For Slough this is approximately £0.5m.
- LA needs to passport at least 93% of the funding in 17-18 and at least 95% in 18-19.
- All providers in 2019-20 will be on the same universal base rate. LAs are likely to challenge this i.e. Education versus Childminding.
- LA can use supplement to increase funding to providers using criterion like deprivation, flexibility etc, which will be capped at 10% of the hourly funding rate.
- Additional funding has been set aside from 2017-18 for Maintained Nurseries for 2 years to keep the transition to universal rate manageable.
- There will be new Disability Access Fund and Local Inclusion Funds for children with Special Needs.
- The Early Years pupil premium will continue.

For further information please see the link:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/early-years-funding/eynff>

Contact for further information

Coral Miller (interim Group Accountant, ECS)

Coral.miller@slough.gov.uk

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Response ID ANON-8PBM-MUN7-X

Submitted to **Early years funding: changes to funding for 3 and 4 year olds**

Submitted on 2016-09-21 13:38:08

Introduction

1 Welcome - would you like to provide your email address?

Email:

rachel.cartwright@slough.gov.uk

2 Would you like to tell us the name of your organisation?

Organisation:

Slough Borough Council / Cambridge Education

About you

3 We'd like to know which area of the early years sector your answers represent. Which of these categories best describes your role in the sector?

This is a drop down menu of different categories of respondent - from nursery to local authority:

Local Authority

If you have answered 'other' please provide more details::

4 In which region do you work?

A drop-down menu of the 9 regions of England:

South East

5 If you are not responding as a local authority, which local authority you work in?

A list of all the local authorities in England:

Slough

6 If you are a childcare provider, do you consider yourself to work in a:

7 If you are a childcare provider, how many children can your individual setting offer places to?

Not Answered

8 If you are a childcare provider, do you offer the free entitlement to:

Page 2 - Early Years National Funding Formula

9 Should there be an early years national funding formula (to distribute money from Government to each local authority)?

Yes

10 Considering a universal base rate of funding which does not vary by local area...

Base rate (EYNFF) - Should a universal base rate be included in the early years national funding formula?:

Yes

Base rate (EYNFF) - Is 89.5% of overall funding the right amount to channel through this factor?:

No

11 Considering an additional needs factor...

Add needs - metrics - Should an additional needs factor be included in the early years national funding formula?:

Yes

Add needs - metrics - Do we propose the correct set of metrics?:

Unsure

Add needs - metrics - Do we propose the correct weightings for each metric?:

Unsure

12 Considering an area cost adjustment...

ACA - Should the early years national funding formula include an area cost adjustment?:

Yes

ACA - Should that adjustment be based on staff costs (based on the General Labour Market measure) and on nursery premises costs (based on rateable values)?:

Yes

13 If you have any comments or recommendations for alternative metrics or weightings to be used in the early years national funding formula, please explain here:

This box allows you to write an answer freely:

Greater clarity is required on the definition and measure of EAL, in addition to sources of FSM data.

Regarding the area cost adjustment, consideration should be taken of Slough's proximity to London, including good transport links and market competition.

14 To what extent do you agree with the proposed funding floor limit, so that no local authority would face a reduction in its hourly funding rate of greater than 10%?

Disagree

Page 3 - Two technical questions

15 To implement the increased hourly rate for the two-year old free entitlement...

2YO - Should we retain the current two-year-old funding formula?:

No

2YO - Should we use the additional funding secured at the spending review to uplift local authorities' allocations based upon this?:

Yes

16 Considering the Dedicated Schools Grant, should the free entitlement be capped at 30 hours for children of eligible working parents and 15 hours for all other children?

Yes

Page 4 - A high pass-through of local authority funding to providers

17 Should Government set the proportion of early years funding that must be passed on to providers?

Yes

18 Do you think that 95% is the correct minimum proportion of the money that should be passed from local authorities to providers?

No, 95% is too high

19 If you would like to explain a response you've submitted on this page in more detail, please do so here:

This box allows you to write an answer freely:

The proportion of funding that must be passed on to providers should still allow for the LA to provide support and challenge to improve outcomes for children and to improve quality, including our statutory functions. This would continue to have a particular focus on settings requiring improvement, or those judged to be inadequate.

Page 5 - How money is distributed from local authorities to childcare providers

20 Should local authorities be required to give the same universal hourly base rate to all childcare providers in their area?

No

21 Considering funding supplements that local authorities could choose to use (above the universal base rate)...

Supplements - Should local authorities be able to use funding supplements?:

Yes

Supplements - Should there be a cap on the proportion of funding that is channeled through supplements?:

No

22 If you agree that there should be cap on the proportion of funding that is channeled through supplements, should the cap be set at 10%?

No, the cap should be higher than 10%

23 Should the following supplements be permitted?

Basket of supplements - Deprivation:

Yes

Basket of supplements - Sparsity / rural areas:

Yes

Basket of supplements - Flexibility:

Yes

Basket of supplements - Efficiency:

Yes

Basket of supplements - Additional 15 hours of childcare:

Yes

24 When using funding supplements, should local authorities have discretion over the metrics they use and the amount of money channeled through each one?

Metrics & amount - supplements - Deprivation:

Yes - over the metric they use, Yes - over the amount of money

Metrics & amount - supplements - Sparsity / rural areas:

Yes - over the metric they use, Yes - over the amount of money

Metrics & amount - supplements - Flexibility:

Yes - over the metric they use, Yes - over the amount of money

Metrics & amount - supplements - Efficiency:

Yes - over the metric they use, Yes - over the amount of money

Metrics & amount - supplements - Additional 15 hours of childcare:

Yes - over the metric they use, Yes - over the amount of money

25 If you agree that efficiency (efficient business practices that provide excellent value for money) should be included in the set of supplements, do you have a suggestion of how should it be designed?

This box allows you to write an answer freely:

26 If you agree the delivery of the additional 15 hours of free childcare should be included in the set of supplements, do you have a suggestion of how should it be designed?

This box allows you to write an answer freely:

27 If you think that any additional supplements should be permitted which are not mentioned here, please set out what they are and why you believe they should be included:

This box allows you to write an answer freely:

The LA should be enabled to have greater flexibility in relation to supplements, using local discretion governed by Schools' Forum

28 Finally, for this page, if you want to explain a response you've submitted on this page in more detail, please do so here:

This box allows you to write an answer freely:

Page 6 - Funding for disabled children

29 Should there be a Disability Access Fund to support disabled children to access their free entitlement?

Yes

30 Should eligibility for the Disability Access Fund be children aged 3 or 4 which are a) taking up their free entitlement and b) in receipt of Disability Living Allowance?

Unsure

31 When it comes to delivering the funding for the Disability Access Fund, is the most appropriate way the existing framework of the Early Years Pupil Premium?

No

32 If you want to explain a response you've submitted on this page in more detail, please do so here:

This box allows you to write your answer freely:

Both DLA and EYPP criteria and numbers are not reflective of the number of children who may benefit from and need a Disability Access Fund.

Page 7 - Funding for children with special educational needs

33 To what extent do you agree that a lack of clarity on how parents / childcare providers can access financial support results in children with special educational needs not receiving appropriate support? (We mean children who do not already have an Education, Health and Care Plan)

Strongly agree

34 When it comes to establishing an inclusion fund...

SEN - inclusion fund - Should local authorities be required to establish an inclusion fund?:

Strongly agree

SEN - inclusion fund - Would an inclusion fund help improve the supply of appropriate support children receive when in an early years setting?:

Strongly agree

35 If you envisage any barriers, arising from existing practice or future proposals, to introducing a new requirement on local authorities to establish an inclusion fund, please tell us what they are and how they might be overcome:

This box allows you to write an answer freely:

The LA already has an established Inclusion Fund, funded through the High Needs Block. It will continue to need to be governed by Schools' Forum.

36 When it comes to the SEN inclusion fund, should local authorities be responsible for deciding...

SEN - local authority role - The children for which the inclusion fund is used?:

Yes

SEN - local authority role - The value of the fund?:

Yes

SEN - local authority role - The process of allocating the funding?:

Yes

37 Where specialist SEN or SEND services are delivered free at the point of use, should they be considered as funding passed directly to providers for the purposes of the 95% high pass-through?

Agree

38 If you want to explain a response you've submitted on this page in more detail, please do so here:

This box allows you to write an answer freely:

Page 8 - Transitions to a new funding system

39 To what extent do you agree with the transition approach proposed for the Early Years National Funding Formula (money distributed from Government to local authorities)?

Agree

40 To what extent do you agree with the transition approach proposed for the high pass-through of early years funding from local authorities to providers?

Disagree

41 To what extent do you agree that our proposals on the high pass-through of funding from local authorities to childcare providers makes the existing Minimum Funding Guarantee for the early years unnecessary?

Disagree

42 To what extent do you agree with the transition approach proposed for introducing the universal base rate for all providers in a local authority area?

Disagree

43 If you want to explain a response you've submitted on this page in more detail, please do so here:

This box allows you to write an answer freely:

The LA considers that the transition approach should be extended to allow for growth from 90 - 95% over a longer period of time (e.g. minimum 3 years). The transition approach to introducing the universal base rates may leave some providers vulnerable to issues of sustainability.

Page 9 - Equality Assessment

44 Please provide any representations and/or evidence on the impact of our proposals for the purposes of the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010). The protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race (including ethnicity); religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation.

This box allows you to write your answer freely:

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Schools Forum October 13th 2016

Special Educational Needs: High Needs Block Update 16/17 and Issues for 17/18 and beyond

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1.1 This report sets out the financial concerns affecting the 2016/17 High Needs Block (HNB) and suggests a range of approaches needing to be considered so that action is taken in the short, medium and longer term to address these concerns.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 As most schools will be aware, both the funding for pupils with high-level special needs and the number of places at local Special Schools and Resource Bases in mainstream schools have been under significant pressure for some time. As at the end of September 2016 there are 1,089 pupils aged 16 and under with Statements of SEN or Education Health and Care Plans, with over 100 more aged 17 and over.

2.2 At the start of the current financial year, there were three areas of significant backlog of work within the SEND Service (managed by the Children's Services Trust since October 2015). These related to new Education Health and Care assessments being not completed on time; requests and recommendations for changes arising from annual reviews of pupils with Statements not being actioned and insufficient work undertaken to 'convert' Statement to EHCPs.

2.3 Progress has been made in all three areas, but the service is not complacent about the scale of what still remains to be done

2.4 Because specialist provision in Slough is currently at (or over) agreed capacity, more children and young people are attending schools in neighbouring areas and there are also more children who are attending fee-paying schools related to their social care needs and placements.

2.5 As part of the first round of monitoring spending within the High Needs Block for 16/17 a significant projected overspend has been identified, which is in large part a result of spending falling into this financial year which relates to costs incurred by schools and others in previous financial years.

2.6 Clearly this situation has to be managed to reduce the projected overspend and to manage out the problem in this year and over future years. The next section of this report sets out a series of actions that need to be considered for implementation as part of the 'Recovery Plan' for the High Needs Block

3. PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION

There are a range of options that are set out below. At this stage these are for information and for your views. The detailed Recovery Plan will be drafted following this meeting and presented to a future meeting of Schools Forum. An independent consultant has been engaged to carry out a short piece of work to investigate the budget spend and advise on potential areas of action to address the issues. Current options for consideration are as follows:

3.1 Roll Forward

The least attractive option, but one which could be considered, is to roll-forward the 16/17 overspend as a prior commitment against the 17/18 budget. This seems neither sensible nor sustainable, given the fixed nature of this element of DSG and the growing need as numbers increase.

3.2 Banding

It has been suggested that a reduction in the value of each top-up band should form part of the recovery plan. This would have to be carefully managed so that the impact on any individual school budget is not greater than 1.5%.

However, the backlog of Annual Reviews dealt with by the Trust since Easter 2016, has shown a consistent pattern of requests for increases in banding levels, which were judged by the SEND Service to be supported by evidence of the pupil's needs

3.3 Out of Borough Independent Sector Placements

A new working protocol has been introduced within the Trust so that social workers seeking new care placements or changes of existing ones are required to identify a suitable state school close to the placement address as the first option in all cases. Even with this in place, there has been a rise in the number of children and young people previously in state schools who are now educated at fee paying schools, largely in other parts of the country.

As part of ongoing commissioning work with the Trust, there is a commitment to work to reduce the cost of these placements and any successful reduction in the educational fees will reduce pressure on this element of the HNB.

3.4 Out of Borough State School Placements

The combination of schools capacity (especially at secondary), parental preference and the assessed needs of the child or young person, has led to an increase in the number of Slough children attending state schools in other local authority areas. Generally top-up funding for those pupils is related to the Slough banding, but each local authority operates different structures and levels, some higher than Slough some lower. These Out of Borough placements have little financial impact on the HNB but create significant pressures on the Borough Council's Transport Budget.

There seems little scope for significant impact on the projected HNB overspend by taking action in this area

3.5 HNB line by line review

Every budget line within the HNB needs to be re-examined and it may be appropriate to focus more of the spend on higher levels of need, for example that the commissioned work of the Berkshire Sensory Consortium be re-prioritised to work only with pupils with Statements or EHCPs and the spend in this area reduced.

Every commissioned service may need to be similarly re-examined and the 'eligibility' threshold for HNB funding limited to high-level SEND and PRU only.

For those areas of HNB spend that are not payments directly to schools nor a commissioned service, this funding may need to be scaled back or removed. This may impact on staffing levels and capacity within both the Trust and SBC. This includes all those elements that are currently centrally-retained.

3.6 Support from Schools Block

As part of the mix of options, there may be a need for a detailed, costed request to a future Schools Forum for a one-off transfer from Schools Block to HNB to form a part of the Recovery Plan

4. LONGER-TERM ISSUES

4.1 Given the 2016/17 situation re lack of capacity at Special Schools and Resource Bases, there are a number of suggestions under discussion and proposals in development to invest capital resources in Slough to increase capacity

4.2 However, the current pressures on the HNB outlined above in addition to the fixed nature of this element of DSG, presents a dilemma to both SBC and the Trust, which needs to be shared with Schools Forum as part of this paper.

4.3 The costs of school places at Special Schools and of the majority of the cost of a place at a Resource Base are met in full from the HNB. The size of the HNB is determined based on a formula rather than pupil numbers, so increases in school capacity within Schools Block are not matched in terms of the flow of pupil funding by increases in places funded by the HNB.

4.4 In short, any increase in capacity as a result of capital investment, may have no revenue stream to support it.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 See section 3 above

6. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

6.1 Not applicable

7. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

7.1 Not applicable at this stage, but all proposals to be included in the proposed Recovery Plan will be the subject of detailed consultations with senior officers in Slough Borough Council Legal Services and Finance as well as with the Schools Forum HNB sub-group. The independent Consultant will report to the Council by end of November.

8. CONSULTATION

None at this stage

The views and suggestions of Schools Forum are welcome on all of the issues and proposals outlined above and Schools Forum is asked to agree to re-instate the HNB sub-group to support the development and monitor the implementation of the proposed Recovery Plan.

Contact for further information –

**Robert Hardy
Interim Head of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Slough Children's
Services Trust
Direct Line 01753 787674**

For Information Only

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM 13th October 2016

School's Out-turn Report 2015-16 (Directorate of Wellbeing)

1, PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Council's accounts for 2015-16 are now finalised. This report is therefore to formally inform the Schools' Forum of these final balances.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Schools' Forum note the final outturn shown in the accompanying Appendix.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The council is required to inform the Schools' Forum of the final outturn each year.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 See Appendix A – The 2015-16 Outturn has been completed in Section 251 format and will be available on the internet by the end of October 2016.

- 5.2 See Appendix B for information.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

- 6.1 Borough Solicitor
Not applicable.

- 6.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

Not applicable.

- 6.3 Access Implications
There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Principal Groups Consulted
None.

- 7.2 Method of Consultation
Not applicable.

- 7.3 Representations Received
Not applicable.

- 7.4 Background Papers
None

Contact for further information

Coral Miller (Interim Group Accountant, ECS) ;
(01753 477209); coral<mailto:.miller@slough.gov.uk>

APPENDIX A - 2015-16 OUT-TURN Schools

S251 Outturn 2015-16

Table A: LA Level Information

LA Name Slough borough council

Description	TOTAL
1 SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE	
1.0.1 Individual Schools Budget (ISB) (after academy recoupment)	63,045,337
DE-DELEGATED ITEMS	
1.1.2 Behaviour support services	522,430
1.1.7 Licences/subscriptions	85,099
1.1.9 Staff costs - supply cover for facility time	7,010
HIGH NEEDS EXPENDITURE	
1.2.1 Top up funding - maintained schools	3,839,190
1.2.2 Top-up funding – academies, free schools and colleges	4,025,806
1.2.3 Top-up and other funding – non-maintained and independent providers	1,211,332
1.2.5 SEN support services	1,060,630
1.2.6 Hospital education services	0
1.2.7 Other alternative provision services	1,116,559
1.2.8 Support for inclusion	343,340
1.2.10 PFI and BSF costs at special schools and AP/ PRUs	435,896
EARLY YEARS EXPENDITURE	
1.3.1 Central expenditure on children under 5	344,301
CENTRAL PROVISION WITHIN SCHOOLS SPEND	
1.4.1 Contribution to combined expenditure	736,971
1.4.2 School admissions	178,180
1.4.3 Servicing of schools forums	53,056
1.4.6 Capital Expenditure from Revenue (CERA)	200,974
1.4.10 Pupil growth/ Infant class sizes	1,441,396
1.4.11 SEN transport	0
1.4.13 Other items	114,276
1.5.1 Other Specific Grants	3,914,223
1.6.1 TOTAL SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE (after academy recoupment)	82,676,006

Memorandum

RECONCILIATION OF SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE

1.7.1 Dedicated Schools Grant brought forward from 2014-15	-4,327,180
1.7.2 Dedicated Schools Grant for 2015-16	-76,020,848
1.7.3 EFA funding	-3,317,866
1.7.4 Local Authority additional contribution	-309,000
1.7.5 Total funding supporting the Schools Expenditure (lines 1.7.1 to 1.7.4)	-83,974,894
1.8.1 Dedicated Schools Grant carried forward to 2016-17	-1,298,888

ANALYSIS

School block budget

Growth Fund underspend - previously approved.	187,240
Underspend in the CERA expenditure - in 2016-17 budget proposing to reduce this budget by £100k and put this back into the School block subject to approval by School Forum. Propose this be added to the growth fund and reduce 16-17 "topslice" by this amount.	25,741
Total	212,981
Early years block (not centrally retained)	890,251
For information	
High needs block underspend, a £190k has already been included in the 1617 budget	195,656
Grand Total	1,298,888

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1 SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

Table of Centrally Retained commitment for 2017-18

Description	SBC (Slough Borough Council) OR CE (Camb. Ed.)	Budget £000	Definition in the S251 Return	DFE Request for Additional Information (with proof of commitment prior to 2013-14)	Assumption
School Forum costs	SBC Johnny Kyriacou -	53	School Forum costs	No information requested	Assumed this will be allowed in 17-18
School admission	CE – Johnny Kyriacou	178	School Admission	No information requested	Assumed this will be allowed in 17-18
Capital Expenditure funded from Revenue (CERA)	SBC Johnny Kyriacou –	149	CERA	Requested information to prove (with contracts etc) that the on-going commitment in 2013-14 is still applicable	No evidence is available for this, so the council can expect to lose this funding. Commitments are disallowed funding is set aside for different capital works each year.
School improvement support for early support, monitoring, challenge and intervention.	CE – Johnny Kyriacou	630	Combined budget	As above	Evidence being sought
Education, School improvement and raising standard – Leadership, management, business and administration support.	CE - Johnny Kyriacou	95	Combined budget	As above	As above
LA Safeguarding children board	CE – to be advised	30	Combined budget	As above	As above
Virtual head staffing costs for LAC education	SBC Johnny Kyriacou	100	Combined budget	As above	As above
Safeguarding training	SB- Johnny Kyriacou	49	Combined budget	As above	As above

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Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2014 and ongoing V4 March 2016 updated

Issue and Decision	Schools Forum date	Schools Forum agenda item no.	School Forum Minute
<p>Changes to Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations 2014</p> <p>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.</p>	17/09/2014	5	353
<p>Centrally Held DSG Underspend</p> <p>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.</p>	17/09/2014	6	354
<p>PFI</p> <p>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.</p>	17/09/2014	8	351
<p>Schools Funding levels - letter to Secretary of State</p> <p>Members noted a response from David Laws MP to the letter sent to the Secretary of State.</p>	12/11/2014	3	361
<p>St Joseph's update</p> <p>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.</p>	12/11/2014	3	361
<p>Amendment to previous minutes</p> <p>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'.</p>	12/11/2014	3	361
<p>Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring</p> <p>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.</p>	12/11/2014	4	362
<p>Budget process / formula</p> <p>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.</p>	12/11/2014	5	363
<p>Growth Fund 2015/16</p> <p>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.</p>	10/12/2014	6	374
<p>Centrally Retained DSG Underspend</p> <p>The principle of distributing the final underspend by numbers on roll was re-affirmed.</p>	10/12/2014	7	375
<p>De-delegated Budgets: SEBDOS (formerly known as the Behaviour Support Service) and Trades Union)</p> <p>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.</p>	10/12/2014	8	376
<p>Membership</p>			

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2014 and ongoing V4 March 2016 updated

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.	10/12/2014	9	377
Membership			
Angela Mellish (St Bernard's Grammar School) was welcomed to the Schools Forum as the new maintained secondary school member.	14/01/2015	1	382
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.	14/01/2015	3	384
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.	14/01/2015	3	384
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.	14/01/2015	5	386
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.	14/01/2015	6	387
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.	14/01/2015	7	388
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.	14/01/2015	8	389
2015-16 DSG Blocks (High Needs Block)			
Schools Forum agreed to carry forward £600,000 from 2014/15.	14/01/2015	9	390
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>).	25/03/2015	1	396
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.	25/03/2015	3	398
Commissioning of Places in Special Settings			
It was noted that an annual review of places should take place (report to Schools Forum)	25/03/2015	4	399

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2014 and ongoing V4 March 2016 updated

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.	25/03/2015	6	401
Membership			
John Constable is to write to academy proprietors regarding the three membership vacancies, following a review of the January 2015 census.	25/03/2015	12	407
Membership			
New members, Emma Slaughter (new Children's Centres' member) and Sally Eaton (new PVI member), were welcomed to the meeting.	06/05/2015	1	408
Schools Forum suggested Eddie Neighbour and Jo Matthews as potential members for academy proprietors to consider.	06/05/2015	3	410
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.	06/05/2015	4	411
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 .	06/05/2015	5	412
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.	06/05/2015	5	413
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.	06/05/2015	6	414
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.	06/05/2015	7	415
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.	23/09/2015	4	424
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).	23/09/2015	6	426
School Improvement Underspend			

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2014 and ongoing V4 March 2016 updated

<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>	23/09/2015	7	427
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>	23/09/2015	8	428
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>	23/09/2015	9	429
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>	06/10/2015	3	439
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>	06/10/2015	4	440
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>	06/10/2015	5	441
Minutes of previous meeting 6th October 2015			
<p>Item 439: Jon Reekie (Baylis Court MAT/Godolphin Infant), Eddie Neighbour (Upton Court) and Jo Matthews (Littledown) now elected as academy members and resignation of Hardeep Singh (Khalsa Primary) noted.</p> <p>Item 441: Confirmed that the £190,000 to be transferred to the High Needs Block was a one off transfer from under spend, not a permanent arrangement.</p>	09/12/2015	3	449
Growth Fund 2016			
<p>Agreed 2016-17 DSG top slice for Growth Fund, increased by £250k, to £1.1 million.</p> <p>Growth Fund criteria, to be brought to January Schools Forum; to include funding for permanent expansion, emergency bulge classes, additional places in primary school classes and secondary places above PAN where requested by LA.</p>	09/12/2015	6	452
Centrally Retained items Schools Block			
<p>Agreed £933k proposed for 2016-17 for Cambridge Education contractual school improvement work; balance of the £1.2m to be discussed at January Schools Forum. LA centrally retained budget of £230k agreed in part: Schools Forum (£53k) and CERA (£149k). Balance to be brought back to Schools Forum in January.</p>	09/12/2015	7	453

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2014 and ongoing V4 March 2016 updated

De-delegated items 2016-17			
The de-delegation of the proposed budget for the behaviour support service (SEBDOS) was agreed by primary and secondary maintained schools. Trades Union budget de-delegation was deferred pending further clarification from the LA.	09/12/2015	9	454
Review of SEBD Outreach Funding Methodology			
Schools Forum supported the change in funding methodology proposed by SEBDOS.	09/12/2015	8	455
Split site criteria review			
The proposed revised split site criteria was agreed.	09/12/2015	10	456
Minutes of previous meeting 9th December 2015			
Membership: It was agreed that the terms of office of Maggie Waller, Phillip Gregory and Gillian Coffey were extended until August 2016, pending the next review of membership following academy conversions.	12/01/2016	3	464
£70k for supporting recruitment (previously agreed): the LA agreed that the funding should be transferred.	12/01/2016	3	464
De-delegation of Trades Union budget: it was agreed that the vote on the de-delegation of the Trades Union support budget would take place by email as soon as possible.	12/01/2016	3	464
Funding Formula changes for 2016-17			
Following the LA consultation regarding the Fair Funding formula budget for 2016-17, 3 options are to go to Cabinet on 18th January with the recommendation that the Council approves Option 3 (changes to AWPU and increase of lump sum).	12/01/2016	4	465
Funding Formula 2016-17 IDACI consultation			
Noted changes to IDACI notified by DfE in late December. Postcodes have been re-banded based on 2015 IMD figures rather than 2010, resulting in 50% of children in Slough no longer living in 'officially deprived' postcodes. LA has tried to keep same level of funding in deprivation factor which has led to changes: increasing the Free School Meal rate by 31%; using IDACI band 2 and increasing the band value 2 by 37% and band 3 to 5 by 36%.	12/01/2016	5	466
2016/17 Budget Timetable			
DSG block allocation noted including £118.7 million for the Schools Block. Schools will receive budgets (5 to 16) and indicative early years and high needs budgets on 25th February 2016.	12/01/2016	6	467
School Improvement: Cambridge Education Centrally Retained underspend from 2014-15 and LA Centrally Retained budget for 2016/17			
Cambridge Education 2014-15 underspend confirmed at £232k and the following one off allocations agreed: £20k previously allocated to school improvement; £35k previously allocated for Rising Stars Maths booster programme; £70k for longer term KS2 Maths project in 5-7 schools; £35k to support LAC; £73k to be returned to schools on one off basis in 2016-17 via Schools Block. Centrally retained SBC Combined Budget for 2016-17 is £148,646, made up of £28,400 (school improvement and raising standards) and £120,246 previously within the Cambridge Education budget. £ 100,000 was agreed for the Virtual Head statutory function; £ 48,646 to support strengthening of safeguarding support was agreed in principle subject to provision of further detail at March Schools Forum meeting. Both are one-off as decisions can only be made annually by Schools Forum. The £190k previously agreed from the 2015/16 underspend for supporting the High Needs Block was re-affirmed; this is a permanent reduction in retained DSG.	12/01/2016	7	468
Centrally Retained DSG Items for Early Years 2016/17			
LA proposed similar level to 2015-16 for centrally retained DSG for Early Years for 2016/17. This was agreed.	12/01/2016	8	469
Growth Fund			
2016-17 Growth Fund confirmed as £1.1million to be funded from the Schools Block budget. Carry forward from 2015-16 estimated as £150k (total demand currently forecast at £1.25 million). List of criteria for Growth Fund to be brought back to the March Schools Forum meeting for formal agreement.	12/01/2016	9	470
LA Scheme for Financing Schools			
An updated Scheme for Financing Schools to be placed on SBC website in February 2016. Noted that previous LA proposal to amend the Balance Control Mechanism was withdrawn.	12/01/2016	10	471
Minutes of previous meeting 12th January 2016			
Noted that, following the January meeting, the de-delegation of the Trades Union budget had been agreed by email by relevant Schools Forum members.	08/03/2016	3	479

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2014 and ongoing V4 March 2016 updated

Cabinet had agreed the proposed Option 3 for the 5- 16 formula changes at its meeting on 18th January 2016.	08/03/2016	3	479
High Needs Block Proposal 2016/17			
Schools Forum was consulted on the High Needs Block and noted the total funding as £21.59 million.	08/03/2016	5	481
Early Years Budget 2016/17			
Schools Forum was consulted on the Early Years Block 2016/17: £11.367m including £150k for Early Years Pupil Premium for 3 and 4 year olds. The proposed sustainability factor was noted and it was agreed that the criteria would be amended to include a reference to education / early years' professional input when considering nursery schools for this funding.	08/03/2016	6	482
Update on DfE proposals for National Funding Formula			
DfE published a consultation on the proposed National Funding Formula : 7 March 2016 to 17 April. Schools Forum to draft response and schools to be encouraged to respond individually.	08/03/2016	7	483
Growth Fund			
The Growth Fund criteria for 2016/17, as set out in report, were approved.	08/03/2016	8	484
Children's Services Trust			
£47k funding for strengthening safeguarding training in schools, agreed in January 2016 in principle, was agreed pending further development and clarification of the details which would be discussed at SSEF and at phase groups. Options re LAC Pupil Premium also to go through phase groups for consultation.	08/03/2016	13	485
A.O.B. School Improvement Arrangements (centrally retained)			
Agreed that some of the centrally retained funding previously agreed by Schools Forum could be used by the LA to fund two days a week ongoing support for developing school improvement options.	08/03/2016	AOB / 13	490
Chair and Vice Chair			
Maggie Waller was re-elected as Chair and John Constable was re-elected as Vice-Chair.	14/06/2016	5	496
Growth Fund			
It was agreed that the £187k underspend from 2015 /16 could be carried forward into the Growth Fund 2016-17.	14/06/2016	7	498
It was noted that the 2016-17 Growth Fund is £1.287 million, including this carry forward and the current estimated demand is £1.169 million.			
Use of Centrally Retained DSG 2016 /17			
It was endorsed in principle that unspent funds from previously agreed centrally retained DSG, be used to support: Schools Portal; peer review/challenge in consultation with neighbouring LAs and (see also next item) school support fund for use by Slough Teaching Schools Alliance to promote school-to-school support, approx £75k per year for two years.	14/06/2016	8	499
Slough Teaching School Alliance)			
In addition to the agreement above in respect of school to school support, Schools Forum endorsed the transfer of the Slough Learning Partnership's (SLP's) funding reserves (which includes some historic grants from DSG underspend) from SLP to the Slough Teaching Schol Alliance to fund staffing costs for two years.	14/06/2016	9	500
PFI Proposal			
The LA request to use £500k from the DSG Schools Block to fund the PFI affordability gap, currently paid by SBC, was not agreed.	14/06/2016	11	502

Slough Schools' Forum: 2016-17 Forward Agenda Plan

Thursday 13th October 2016

No.	Description	Lead
1	Membership	Maggie Waller / John Constable
2	Update on National Fair Funding	Coral Miller / George Grant
3	Early Years Block update	Coral Miller / George Grant
4	High Needs Block and SEN update: financial issues and implications including commissioning of SEN places and financial forecast for year end 2016/17	Robert Hardy
5	Centrally retained out-turn reports 2015-16 (High Needs, Early Years and Schools Block)	Coral Miller / George Grant
6	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years (verbal)	Maggie Waller
7	Cambridge Education update	Johnny Kyriacou
8	Academies update	Jo Moxon
9	2016-17 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log	Maggie Waller

Tuesday 6th December 2016

No.	Description	Lead
1.	Update on National Fair Funding	Coral Miller / George Grant
2.	Budget timetable for 2017-18	Coral Miller / George Grant
3.	17-18 school block budget estimates	Coral Miller / George Grant
4.	Education Support Grant	Johnny Kyriacou / Coral Miller
5.	Draft DSG including centrally retained and ESG items for approval	Coral Miller / George Grant
6.	De- delegated items	Coral Miller / George Grant
7.	Growth Fund	Coral Miller / Tony Madden
8.	Virtual School Headteacher's update with KPIs	Debby Rigby
9.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years (verbal)	Maggie Waller / Johnny Kyriacou
10.	Cambridge Education update	Johnny Kyriacou
11.	Academies update	Jo Moxon
12.	2016-17 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log	Johnny Kyriacou

Tuesday 10th January 2017

No.	Description	Lead
1.	Update on National Fair Funding	Coral Miller / George Grant
2.	Funding Formula changes for 2017 – 18	Coral Miller / George Grant
3.	Funding Formula re: IDACI 2017 – 18	Coral Miller / George Grant
4.	Early Years Formula	Coral Miller / George Grant
5.	Budget timeline for 2017 – 18	Coral Miller / George Grant
6.	School Improvement update on centrally retained items	Johnny Kyriacou
7.	Growth fund	Coral Miller / Tony Madden
8.	Scheme for Financing Schools	Coral Miller
9.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years (verbal)	Maggie Waller / Johnny Kyriacou
10.	Cambridge Education update	Johnny Kyriacou
11.	Academies update	Jo Moxon
12.	2016-17 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log	Johnny Kyriacou

Tuesday 7th March 2017

No.	Description	Lead
1.	Update on National Fair Funding	Coral Miller / George Grant
2.	Confirmation of indicative budgets	Coral Miller / George Grant
3.	High Needs Places	Children's Services Trust –Robert Hardy
4.	Annual consultation on 2017 – 2018 High Needs Block	Children's Services Trust –Robert Hardy
5.	Annual consultation on 2017 -2018 Early Years Block	Coral Miller / George Grant
6.	Update on centrally retained items	Coral Miller / George Grant
7.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years (verbal)	Maggie Waller / Johnny Kyriacou
8.	Cambridge Education update	Johnny Kyriacou
9.	Academies update	Jo Moxon
10.	2016-17 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log	Johnny Kyriacou

Thursday 18th May 2017 - meeting tbc if required

No.	Description	Lead
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Thursday 6th July 2017

No.	Description	Lead
1.	Update on National Fair Funding	Coral Miller / George Grant
2.	Update on 15/16 (16/17?) 2 year olds block funding spend and carry forward	Coral Miller / George Grant
3.	Centrally retained out-turn reports 2016 -17 (High Needs, Early Years and Schools Block)	Coral Miller / George Grant
4.	Review of the Scheme for Financing Schools	Coral Miller
5.	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years (verbal)	Maggie Waller / Johnny Kyriacou
6.	Cambridge Education update	Johnny Kyriacou
7.	Academies update	Jo Moxon
8.	2016-17 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decisions Log	Johnny Kyriacou
9.	Dates and venues of next year's meetings	Coral Miller/ Maggie Waller & clerk

To be discussed: Budget Monitoring (maintained schools)

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