

## SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM

### **SCHOOLS GROUP:**

John Constable (Chair), Peter Collins, Philip Gregory, Valerie Harffey, Ray Hinds, Kathleen Higgins, Richard Kirkham, Susan Marsh, Navroop Mehat, Angela Mellish, Carol Pearce, Kathy Perry, Jon Reekie, Jo Rockall, Maggie Waller, Nicky Willis, Jamie Rockman and Neil Sykes

### **OBSERVERS:**

Jo Matthews, Eddie Neighbour and Councillor Shabnum Sadiq

### **LOCAL AUTHORITY:**

Domenico Barani, Cate Duffy, Vikram Hansrani, Sabi Hothi, Michael Jarrett, Johnny Kyriacou and Neil Wilcox

**DATE & TIME: TUESDAY, 1ST OCTOBER, 2019 AT 8.00 AM FOR 8.15AM  
BEECHWOOD RESEARCH AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONG  
READINGS LANE, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE, SL2 1QE**

## AGENDA

### Page

### **Apologies**

#### 1. Declarations of Interest

*The Chair will ask Members to confirm whether they have any declarable interests in relation to any item on the agenda.*

*All Members who believe they may have such an interest must declare it and may only:*

- (a) remain in the meeting while that matter is discussed at the discretion of the Chair or Vice Chair, and*
- (b) speak on the matter by invitation.*

*Examples of declarable interests include:*

*where the outcome of a discussion may provide a personal advantage or avoid disadvantage (pecuniary or non-pecuniary), or where the focus of an agenda item and the likely impact of any outcome is wholly or mainly on a school with which the Member is associated.*

2. Any Other Business
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 4 July 2019 **(Pages 1 - 6)**
4. Schools Forum Membership
5. Update on National/Local funding issues
6. 5-16 Funding 2020-21 **(Pages 7 - 16)**
7. Proposal to transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block **(Pages 17 - 18)**
8. Scheme for Financing Schools
9. SEND Banding Update **(Pages 19 - 24)**
10. Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years
11. Academies Update
12. 2019/20 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log **(Pages 25 - 32)**
13. Any Other Business

**Slough Schools Forum- Meeting held on Thursday, 4th July, 2019**

**Present:** John Constable, Langley Grammar School (Chair)  
Peter Collins, Slough & Eton Church of England Business and Enterprise College  
Philip Gregory, Baylis Court Nursery School  
Valerie Harffey, Ryvers Primary School  
Kathleen Higgins, Beechwood Secondary School  
Susan Marsh, Academy Primary Sector  
Navroop Mehat, Wexham Court Primary School  
Angela Mellish, St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School  
Eddie Neighbour, Upton Court Grammar School (Observer)  
Kathy Perry, Mighty Acorns Day Nursery  
Jon Reekie, Godolphin Infant School  
Jo Rockall, Herschel Grammar School  
Nicky Willis, Cippenham Primary School  
Jamie Rockman, Haybrook College  
Neil Sykes, Arbourvale School  
Nicky Willis, Cippenham Primary School

**Observers:** Sharon James, SBC Governor Support Officer  
Eddie Neighbour, Upton Court Grammar School  
Brenda Scott, Orchard Hill Academy

**Officers:** Catherine Cochran, Domenico Barani and Neil Wilcox

**Apologies:** Maggie Waller, Cate Duffy, Vikram Hansrani, Michael Jarrett and Johnny Kyriacou and Maggie Waller

**No Apologies:** Ray Hinds, Jo Matthews or Carol Pearce

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and all those present introduced themselves.

As noted, apologies for absence had been received from Cate Duffy, Vikram Hansrani, Michael Jarrett, Johnny Kyriacou and Maggie Waller. There had been no apologies from Ray Hinds, Jo Matthews or Carol Pearce.

**707. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**708. Any Other Business**

The following item was tabled: Recruitment and Retention Fund 2016.

**709. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 5 March 2019**

The minutes of the Schools Forum meeting held on 5 March 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

**Matters Arising:**

**Present:** please add Jo Matthews, Observer.

**Page 3, minute 698:** Vikram Hansrani would be asked when Schools Forum could expect regular reports on feedback following the introduction of the new High Needs banding model.

**Page 6, minute 701:** Neil Wilcox reported that following the previous Forum there had been a further meeting with representatives from the three PFI schools. A decision had been made by SBC to fund the £184,000 and a guarantee given to the three schools that this action would be taken.

The Chair thanked Neil Wilcox for his support and quick resolution.

Any further Matters Arising would be covered by items on the agenda.

**710. Update on National Funding issues/Local Funding issues (to include 2019-20 School Budget Update)**

Nic Barani explained that the Local Authority (LA) had undertaken a baseline exercise early in 2017 which it had been expected the ESFA would act upon. £500,000 had been incorrectly transferred from Schools Block to High Needs by the ESFA and this amount was now being manually transferred back. The LA had been in contact with the ESFA, requesting they carry out this transfer in the future.

The £500,000 was shown under the 'adjustment' column on the paper entitled '2019-20 School Budget Update' and would be distributed across schools through the local formula. The majority of schools would benefit, and it was planned these monies would be distributed before the end of the current Summer term. The distribution of funds to academy schools would be facilitated by Slough Borough Council (SBC). The schools without any adjustment shown in the paper tended to be those on minimum funding guarantee.

The Secretary of State for Education had acknowledged the national pressures on High Needs budgets which could be addressed through the next Government spending review. Spending Reviews generally occurred every 3 years and Government was currently in the third year of such a cycle. The ESFA had indicated they were considering indicative 3-year budgets in order to support schools.

To date, there was no timeline for the maintained nursery supplement beyond 2020, it was hoped the Teachers' Pay Award would become an integral part of the Schools Block and there were no further updates on grants for Teachers' pension contribution increases.

**711. Growth Fund 2018/19**

The Growth Fund 2018-19 outturn report highlighted the underspend, the main reason being the underwriting fees of £203,000 for Grove Academy, which was less than agreed by Schools Forum.

It was confirmed that all underspend would be rolled forward into 2019-20 and it was anticipated the underspend would be £164,000 at the end of 2019-20. A number of contingencies had been allowed for although these could be affected by unknown factors.

Schools Forum **NOTED** the contents of the Growth Fund 2019-19 outturn report and **AGREED** the underwriting for Grove of £90,000 to £25,000 (2018-19) and the maximum from £60,000 to £90,000 (2019-20).

## 712. Annual DSG Report 2018/19

The financial year end position was noted, showing an overspend of £2.292m. There was an underspend on Early Years but the overspend carry forward of £2.86m on High Needs gave an in-year variance of 13%, with an accumulative roll forward of £7.196m (4.43% above the DSG settlement). The cumulative deficit of High Needs was £8.3m but this was not the highest nationally. The majority of LAs were known to be predicting overspends in High Needs and this information was publicly available.

It was confirmed that the DSG was a ring-fenced grant, appearing on the Council's balance sheet as a debtor.

A summary had been provided showing the DSG budget and outturn by block: an accumulated surplus of £221,000 in the Schools Block would be carried forward into the next financial year. It was explained that the CSSBlock was overspent because of the VAT element, due to insufficient time given to claim licenses: the LA planned to claim this amount back from HMRC in the following year. As noted, there was an underspend on the Early Years Block which was due to uptake, with a predicted carry forward of £450,000. It was anticipated the ESFA would recoup a portion of this underspend. There had been a general increase in uptake hours, but these had not been spread proportionately.

The High Needs Block variances were highlighted and the continued increase in demand in the period between 2015 and 2018. The largest areas of spend were described, being independent special schools, out of borough placements and post-16. Graphs had been provided showing year on year analysis and to demonstrate trends of those assessing services and the in-borough movement of SEND pupils. The categorised cost range of pupils indicated that the average cost had come down to approximately £2,000 per learner in 2018-19 although there were still some larger cost ranges being supported. It was confirmed that the budget allocations reflected that there were insufficient funds to meet need. It was pointed out that achieving an underspend in High Needs could not be assumed, with elements of greater need and pressures moving to mainstream schools.

The reserves of maintained schools and nurseries were highlighted, and it was confirmed the LA had now received all budget plans for 2019/20 and financial viability over the next three years was being considered. It was anticipated that the majority of any reserves would be used within that period and the LA would work closely with any schools forecasting deficits. Certain schools showed significant reserves of 5% or 8% and these schools had been approached about how these funds were to be used. To date, all but one school had responded, and, in the majority of cases, these were operational costs with less being capital. It was planned that Schools Forum would be updated on this issue at the second meeting in the Autumn term 2019.

SALT expenditure was queried, and clarity requested on the use of the descriptor 'elsewhere'. It was suggested some schools could be purchasing privately and Nic Barani agreed to work with Vikram Hansrani on this matter.

Further information would be requested from Michael Jarrett on the apparent lower demand in the PVI sector and whether it had been necessary for any schools to close their nurseries.

As recommended, Schools Forum **NOTED** the Annual DSG Report 2018/19. The Chair thanked Nic Barani and colleagues for the comprehensive report.

### **713. DSG Budget Deficit Recovery Plan**

The Recovery Plan paper had been compiled by Vikram Hansrani and, in his absence, Nic Barani would give an overview. It was noted that the Plan had been submitted to the ESFA, who were reviewing all such LA reports, in order to work with High Needs teams across the country to reduce deficits. A 3-year period had originally been given to bring deficits into balance but the ESFA understood the pressure on a number of LAs and had extended the timeline to 7 years. The ESFA were to allocate a specialist to each LA, who would monitor recovery plans and work closely with LAs to make efficiency savings.

The deficit breakdown from 2014-15 showed an underspend of £1.05m moving to an overspend of £8.3m. It was explained it would be difficult to reduce the deficit, due to increased demand which had not been matched by funding. Appendix 1 of the Report outlined some of the efficiency saving strategies the LA planned to make whilst trying to continue to meet need.

It was pointed out that an increased number of parents were now going to SEND tribunals, which was creating additional pressures for all those involved. It was added that on costs to schools continued to rise, although per pupil funding had not increased in five years which was impacting on Special schools. More detail was requested on the re-aligning of Resource Base provision and how Schools Forum might challenge such plans: the running costs of a Resource Base had not changed, and it was agreed this issue would be raised through the High Needs Task Group. It was also agreed it would be informative to know how the number of EHC Plans in the Borough compared with other authorities.

It was noted that in the Autumn term, the LA would be approaching Schools Forum to request a reassignment of £93,000 from the High Needs Block to Early Years (regarding the Early Years Inclusion Fund) along with a request for a transfer of £700,000 (0.5%) from Schools Block to the High Needs Block in year 3 (2020/21).

Neil Wilcox and Nic Barani would clarify whether the historic £184,000 related to the PFI Contribution for Arbour Vale.

Schools Forum appreciated the collaborative working approach from SBC Officers on this issue.

### **9.00am: Kathleen Higgins left the meeting**

### **714. Review of the Scheme for Financing Schools 2019/20**

Nic Barani explained that a number of minor amendments had been made to the Scheme for Financing Schools for maintained schools. A two-week consultation period with maintained schools would commence week beginning Monday 8 July: during that period any questions would be addressed.

The Scheme would be updated following the consultation and it was planned the revised Scheme would be issued in the Autumn term.

A member pointed out that it was now very late in the academic year to go out to consultation and also to obtain governor input. Nic Barani confirmed that the DfE did not attach a timetable to the Scheme and noted that maintained schools should be consulted on dates in future.

**715. Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years (to include annual review of Terms of Reference)**

The Service Leads for the Early Years and High Needs Blocks would contact the members of their respective Task Groups, in order to arrange meeting dates.

It was highlighted that the date of the second Schools Forum meeting in the Autumn term 2019 had been moved forward to November and it was proposed the meeting of the 5-16 Task Group should also be brought forward. Nic Barani would circulate a number of suggested meeting dates to members.

All Task Groups were asked to meet before the November Schools Forum meeting.

A list of Task Group members would be drawn up for regular circulation to members. It was added that other members were always welcome to join Task Group meetings but were asked to advise the Chair in the first instance.

The Terms of Reference for the three Task Groups, as circulated, were **APPROVED** without change.

**716. Schools Forum Membership**

As previously noted, the terms of office for nine members of Schools Forum were due to finish on 31 July 2019. The Clerk had emailed all those concerned to establish whether they wished to stand for a further term. Two vacancies had also been created by a member resigning as at the end of the current academic year and notification received that the 16-19 provider representative had resigned their post.

An email communication had been made with all local schools, inviting nominations for membership, by close of business on Monday 8 July. Any nominations would be followed up in due process.

The Chair explained this would be Susan Marsh's last meeting, as she was moving to a new school: on behalf of Schools Forum the Chair congratulated her on her new role and thanked her for her contribution.

**717. Academies Update**

There was nothing to report.

**718. 2019/20 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log**

The 2019/20 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decision Log were noted and would be amended accordingly.

Members were asked to advise the Clerk if they were aware of any meetings or events which would clash with the proposed Schools Forum meeting dates for 2019/20.

## **719. Any Other Business**

### **Recruitment and Retention Fund 2016**

Nicky Willis explained that a grant of £70,000 from DSG underspend had been agreed in 2016 to address issues around Recruitment and Retention in both the primary and secondary phases. Approximately £15,000 had been spent on a branding exercise but the remainder had not been used, leaving a balance of approximately £54,153 which was held by Slough Primary Heads' Association (SPHA). It was proposed this amount be transferred to the Local School Improvement Fund (LSIF). The LSIF was overseen by the Slough School Improvement Board which included both primary and secondary Headteacher representation. Schools Forum **APPROVED** the transfer.

The Chair thanked everyone for their support and wished all attendees a good summer.

**(Note:** The Meeting opened at 8.15 am and closed at 9.35 am)



**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM**  
**1<sup>st</sup> October 2019**

**Directorate of Children, Learning and Skills**

**Schools' Block - Revenue Budget Planning 2020-21**

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**PART A**

**Approval to correct the 2020.21 School's Block and High Needs Block Base Budgets.**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To request permission from Schools' Forum to transfer **£500k** from the High Needs Block to the Schools Block.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 In the 2019/20 financial year, Schools' Forum agreed to transfer funding from the High Needs Block to the Schools Block in order to remedy an error in the 2017/18 baseline return, which created an imbalance between the Schools Block (SB) allocation and High Needs Block (HNB) allocation. The agreement by Schools' Forum last year was for one year only and therefore the DSG will start the new financial year with same imbalance in the base budgets as was the case last year.

**3 High Needs Block transfer to Schools Block**

- 3.1 The DSG block allocation for 2020/21 is predicated on the 2017/18 baseline. In order to keep the blocks aligned as they were in 2019/20, a transfer between the High Needs Block and Schools' Block of £500,000 is required. This transfer is a reallocation of funding between blocks to correct an error (as in 2019/20), it not to simply to take additional funding from an already highly pressured budget.
- 3.2 The Schools' Block revenue modelling already assumes this transfer.

**4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Forum **approves**;

The transfer of £500,000 from the High Needs Block to the Schools' Block for 2020/21 to replicate the movement actioned in 2019/20 to correct the baselining of the DSG in 2017/18.

**5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 Not applicable

## **6 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

6.1 Not applicable

## **7 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### 7.1 Monitoring Officer

The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

### 7.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Finance and Resources

The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

### 7.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

## **8 CONSULTATION**

8.1 Not applicable

## **PART B**

### **Schools Revenue Budget 2020-21**

#### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report serves to
- a) provide Schools' Forum with an update on the national spending policy for the Education sector for 5-16 year old pupils in mainstream settings,
  - b) provide feedback on the discussions held between Schools' Block Task Group representatives regarding the local funding formula and the schools' revenue budget setting processes for 2020/21,
  - c) to outline the next steps within the annual budget setting process, in line with statutory practice.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Schools' Forum is asked to note the outcome of the Task Group meetings and to make a recommendation on the preferred option(s) to be put out for wider consultation.

#### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is obligatory that the LA engages in an open and transparent manner with Schools' Forum representatives when setting the annual schools' revenue budgets. It uses its collective experience and expertise to consider and propose the most equitable budgetary solutions for all maintained schools within the borough.

#### **4 Background/update on national policy decisions.**

- 4.1 The government announced in early September a three year budget settlement for all schools, nationally. The Secretary of State (SOS) confirmed that the national funding package for 5-16 schools includes £2.6bn for 2020/21, £4.8bn for 2021/22 and £7.1bn for 2022/23, of which £4.6bn boosts funding above current inflationary levels. The deal includes £700m extra for children with SEND in 2020/21.
- 4.2 The funding floor will be set at 1.84% per pupil, in line with the forecast GDP deflator, to protect per-pupil allocations for all schools in real terms. This minimum increase in 2020/21 will be based on the individual school's NFF allocation in 2019/20.
- 4.3 Minimum per pupil funding will rise from a minimum of £3,500 to £3,750 for primary schools, and a minimum of £4,000 from 2021-22, and from £4,800 to £5,000 for secondary schools.
- 4.4 Separate to this, funding will be £1.5bn each year (£4.4bn in total) to continue to fund additional pension costs for teachers.

- 4.5 National Funding formula factor rates will rise by 4%, except for FSM which will rise by inflation to better reflect actual costs.
- 4.6 Non-school led factors such as PFI will be funded on 2019/20 actuals, plus inflation.
- 4.7 The SOS confirmed the government's intention still to move to a 'hard' NFF for schools where budgets will be set on the basis of a single, national formula and iterated that it will work closely with LA's to ensure this transition is made as smoothly as possible.
- 4.8 As with previous years', LAs will have discretion over their schools funding formulae, in consultation with schools, but will ultimately determine allocations in their area.
- 4.9 The government are making their first steps towards hardening the schools' formula by making the minimum per pupil funding levels a compulsory feature within the budget setting process from 2020/21.
- 4.10 Other changes to the budget setting process from 2020/21 are in regards to the MFG, scaling and capping. MFG must be set at a minimum of +0.5% and a maximum of +1.84%, whilst capping and scaling has been removed to allow schools to keep all in-year per pupil growth.
- 4.11 With moving toward NFF, as per the operational guidance, LAs should consider the use of the EAL factor when setting its budgets as this factor is used under hard NFF.
- 4.12 As with previous years, LAs can transfer up to 0.5% of their schools' block to other blocks, with Schools' Forum approval. To transfer more than this amount, or any amount not approved by Forum, the LA would need to make a disapplication request to the DfE, even if the same amount was agreed in the past two years.

## **5 Local Context**

- 5.1 The Schools' Block task group convened on two occasions in early September to discuss the modelling options proposed by the LA. The first set of options presented at the first task group were produced just before the government's education funding announcements, with the estimated settlement underpinning the models predicated on a prudent, zero growth formula using both a mixture of pupil estimations for AY 2019/20 and schools' own predictions from those who provided this data. Several options were proposed ranging from:
- Groups of models for 'as – is' funding at 65% NFF, plus 75%, 80%, 85% and full transition to NFF factor rates.

- For each group, models were produced altering the MFG from the current -1.5% to +0.5%, both including and excluding the use of EAL and FSM factors.
- 5.2 The options were discussed in detail, and a unanimous decision was made to eliminate 75% and 80% from future modelling. It was discussed that whilst full NFF was affordable this year, it was not in the interest of Slough schools to consider, as doing so could see funding frozen once hard NFF has been implemented in full; this is because the notional NFF budgets for Slough were around £2m less than current funding levels. However, for the purpose of comparison, this option was to be included for review at the second task group. It was also discussed that the LA will seek to acquire Forum approval for a 0.5% top-slice to fund pressures within the High Needs Block.
- 5.3 The Task Group decided that the estimated settlement be uprated by 1.84% in line with the government's announcements, as well as introducing changes to the MFG, and capping and scaling as described earlier on in this report to make further modelling more informative. The models agreed and to be presented to the second task group were as follows:
- 65% NFF Factor Rates using +0.5%, +1% and +1.84% MFG
  - 85% NFF Factor Rates using +0.5%, +1% and +1.84% MFG
  - 100% NFF Factor Rates using +0.5%, +1% and +1.84% MFG.
  - Replication of the above, with the effect of a 0.5% transfer to the High Needs block.
- 5.4 The aforementioned models were presented and discussed in detail. The task group endorsed two options which appeared to offer the minimum level of turbulence to schools' illustrative budgets. It was noted that using a 1% and 1.84% MFG was causing the most turbulence between schools overall, as the cost of increasing all schools to receive a minimum per pupil level of funding of +1% or +1.84%, and therefore a maximum increase of 2.5% and 3.34% respectively over 2019-20 values, was impacting most heavily on schools whose indicated in-year growth came out above these thresholds, therefore sacrificing a proportion of its growth to fund this increase.
- 5.5 The two options to be put forward to this Forum to discuss, agree (alongside the proposal to top-slice the Schools' Block by 0.5%, which is discussed in the second paper) and to put out to wider consultation are:
- **65% NFF Factor Rates using a +0.5% MFG.**
  - **85% transition to NFF Factor Rates using a +0.5% MFG.**

- 5.6 The illustrative school by school cash impact of the endorsed options is viewable in appendix A. The table illustrates on a school by school basis, the effect of additional government funding under a 'no change' model to provide a like for like comparison with the 2019-20 published budgets, and then the effect of the two above models. Please note, that these budgets are **indicative**, and do not represent schools' final budgets as the updated Primary and Secondary Units of Funding will not be made available until early October.
- 5.7 The consultation will be published shortly after this Forum concludes, and schools will have two weeks to submit their response.
- 5.8 The response rate from the 2019/20 consultation was only 39% of school; therefore we strongly encourage all schools to submit a response.

## **6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 N/A

## **7 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Monitoring Officer

- 7.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

### Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Finance and Resources

- 7.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

## **8 CONSULTATION**

### Principal Groups Consulted

Consultation will proceed after this forum concludes, and will be open to Head Teachers only.

### Method of Consultation

TBC

### Representations Received

Not applicable.

### Contacts for further information

Domenico Barani – Group Accountant – Children and Schools  
[Domenico.Barani@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Domenico.Barani@slough.gov.uk).



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		Base Model		Analysis of changes			OPTION 1			OPTION 2			OPTION 1			OPTION 2	
		2019/20 Budget	2020/21 Budget (as-is model), updated with estimated settlement data				65% NFF Factor Rates			85% NFF Factor Rates			65% NFF Factor Rates with 0.5% HNB Top-Slice			85% NFF Factor Rates with 0.5% HNB Top-Slice	
School	Phase	Budget	Current Model 65% NFF -1.5% MFG 1.1.32	Funding Adjustment on pupil changes (F x J)	Funding increases not related to changes in pupils (G x I)	Illustrative budget change against 2019.20 (H - E)	65% NFF +0.5% MFG	Variance to 2020.21 Base Model (N-H)	Variance to 2019/20 Actual Budget (N - E)	85% NFF +0.5% MFG	Variance to 2020.21 Base Model (Q-H)	Variance to 2019/20 Actual Budget (Q - E)	65% NFF +0.5% MFG	Variance (T - N)	Variance to 2019/20 Actual Budget (U - P)	85% NFF +0.5% MFG	Variance (W - Q)
Grove Academy	All-through	£2,544,428	£2,775,098	£160,347	£75,458	£230,670	£2,927,229	£152,131	£382,801	£2,908,242	£133,144	£363,815	£2,911,171	£-16,058	£366,743	£2,894,445	£-13,798
Castlevew Primary School	Primary	£1,892,698	£1,831,031	£-129,111	£63,002	£-61,666	£1,762,261	£-68,771	£-130,437	£1,765,664	£-65,367	£-127,033	£1,762,261	£0	£-130,437	£1,762,261	£-3,404
Cippenham Infant School	Primary	£1,117,039	£1,150,259	£8,584	£24,914	£33,220	£1,144,069	£-6,190	£27,030	£1,151,463	£1,204	£34,424	£1,137,210	£-6,860	£20,171	£1,144,765	£-6,698
Cippenham Primary School	Primary	£3,274,326	£3,389,968	£41,091	£75,467	£115,643	£3,318,481	£-71,487	£44,156	£3,324,710	£-65,258	£50,384	£3,297,444	£-21,038	£23,118	£3,304,167	£-20,543
Claycots School	Primary	£6,615,822	£6,713,205	£-4,399	£102,182	£97,383	£6,779,856	£66,651	£164,033	£6,745,795	£32,590	£129,972	£6,740,764	£-39,092	£124,942	£6,707,623	£-38,172
Colnbrook Church of England Primary School	Primary	£950,738	£985,767	£15,166	£20,174	£35,029	£985,509	£-257	£34,771	£982,236	£-3,530	£31,499	£980,537	£-4,973	£29,799	£977,381	£-4,856
Foxborough Primary School	Primary	£1,276,972	£1,143,407	£-178,968	£39,258	£-133,565	£1,170,599	£27,192	£-106,373	£1,158,091	£14,684	£-118,881	£1,164,734	£-5,865	£-112,238	£1,152,364	£-5,727
Holy Family Catholic Primary School	Primary	£1,718,968	£1,784,679	£16,876	£49,418	£65,711	£1,731,473	£-53,206	£12,506	£1,736,813	£-47,866	£17,846	£1,720,661	£-10,812	£1,694	£1,726,256	£-10,558
Iqra Slough Islamic Primary School	Primary	£2,553,173	£2,645,452	£33,862	£59,175	£92,279	£2,646,332	£879	£93,158	£2,643,702	£-1,750	£90,529	£2,630,394	£-15,938	£77,221	£2,628,140	£-15,563
James Elliman Academy	Primary	£2,871,615	£3,083,614	£148,455	£66,759	£211,999	£3,155,905	£72,289	£284,288	£3,144,077	£60,463	£272,463	£3,137,364	£-18,539	£265,750	£3,125,975	£-18,102
Khalsa Primary School	Primary	£1,751,151	£1,785,093	£-24,793	£57,931	£33,943	£1,784,792	£-301	£33,642	£1,791,912	£6,819	£40,762	£1,773,776	£-11,016	£22,626	£1,781,156	£-10,757
Langley Hall Primary Academy	Primary	£3,006,128	£3,031,633	£-37,428	£62,165	£25,505	£2,996,474	£-35,159	£-9,654	£3,001,149	£-30,484	£-4,979	£2,977,885	£-18,590	£-28,243	£2,982,997	£-18,152
Lynch Hill School Primary Academy	Primary	£3,525,619	£3,602,738	£-4,330	£81,352	£77,119	£3,532,656	£-70,082	£7,037	£3,523,638	£-79,100	£-1,981	£3,511,440	£-21,216	£-14,179	£3,502,921	£-20,717
Marish Primary School	Primary	£2,914,745	£3,050,597	£71,334	£66,062	£135,852	£3,052,548	£1,951	£137,803	£3,056,044	£5,447	£141,299	£3,034,009	£-18,539	£119,264	£3,037,942	£-18,102
Montem Academy	Primary	£3,769,861	£3,757,339	£4,511	£-17,095	£-12,523	£3,830,950	£73,611	£61,089	£3,830,914	£73,576	£61,053	£3,830,950	£0	£61,089	£3,830,914	£0
Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School	Primary	£2,461,481	£2,448,685	£-117,851	£100,410	£-12,796	£2,381,509	£-67,176	£-79,972	£2,392,600	£-56,085	£-68,881	£2,367,178	£-14,331	£-94,303	£2,378,607	£-13,994
Parlaunt Park Primary Academy	Primary	£2,324,309	£2,174,030	£-216,960	£60,754	£-150,279	£2,170,225	£-3,805	£-154,083	£2,165,180	£-8,849	£-159,128	£2,157,679	£-12,546	£-166,629	£2,152,930	£-12,251
Penn Wood Primary and Nursery School	Primary	£3,206,735	£3,299,464	£25,420	£68,145	£92,199	£3,364,633	£65,170	£157,898	£3,368,552	£69,089	£161,817	£3,348,007	£-16,626	£141,672	£3,352,317	£-16,235
Phoenix Infant Academy	Primary	£1,328,035	£1,338,899	£-21,877	£32,320	£10,863	£1,424,425	£85,527	£96,390	£1,427,836	£88,938	£99,801	£1,416,597	£-7,829	£88,562	£1,420,192	£-7,644
Pippins School	Primary	£774,133	£785,350	£-23,235	£33,462	£11,217	£777,647	£-7,702	£3,514	£780,904	£-4,446	£6,771	£773,338	£-4,310	£-795	£776,696	£-4,208
Priory School	Primary	£3,268,561	£2,971,391	£-386,064	£78,672	£-297,170	£2,915,840	£-55,551	£-352,721	£2,918,412	£-52,980	£-350,150	£2,898,372	£-17,468	£-370,189	£2,901,355	£-17,057
Ryvers School	Primary	£2,573,422	£2,644,330	£0	£71,019	£70,908	£2,606,271	£-38,059	£32,849	£2,614,043	£-30,287	£40,621	£2,590,002	£-16,269	£16,580	£2,598,157	£-15,886
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School	Primary	£2,299,932	£2,383,300	£17,687	£66,295	£83,368	£2,362,452	£-20,848	£62,520	£2,369,008	£-14,293	£69,075	£2,348,682	£-13,770	£48,750	£2,355,562	£-13,446
St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School	Primary	£1,743,963	£1,810,751	£22,136	£45,204	£66,787	£1,800,520	£-10,231	£56,556	£1,800,339	£-10,412	£56,375	£1,790,090	£-10,430	£46,127	£1,790,155	£-10,184
St Mary's Church of England Primary School	Primary	£2,551,376	£2,773,873	£193,731	£30,975	£222,497	£2,847,561	£73,688	£296,185	£2,824,539	£50,666	£273,163	£2,831,470	£-16,091	£280,095	£2,808,827	£-15,712
The Godolphin Junior Academy	Primary	£2,060,609	£2,080,541	£-31,868	£51,019	£19,932	£2,070,859	£-9,682	£10,251	£2,074,438	£-6,103	£13,829	£2,059,206	£-11,654	£-11,403	£2,063,059	£-11,379
The Langley Academy Primary	Primary	£1,627,436	£2,053,020	£407,817	£22,170	£425,584	£2,014,447	£-38,573	£387,011	£2,017,631	£-35,389	£390,195	£2,001,610	£-12,837	£374,174	£2,005,096	£-12,535
Western House Academy	Primary	£2,552,889	£2,604,366	£-8,442	£59,726	£51,478	£2,567,839	£-36,528	£14,950	£2,575,761	£-28,606	£22,872	£2,552,105	£-15,734	£-784	£2,560,397	£-15,363
Wexham Court Primary School	Primary	£2,643,106	£2,689,106	£-17,490	£63,079	£45,999	£2,698,245	£9,139	£55,139	£2,693,130	£4,024	£50,024	£2,682,562	£-15,683	£39,456	£2,677,816	£-15,314
Willow Primary School	Primary	£1,833,515	£1,932,054	£60,784	£39,244	£98,539	£1,954,475	£22,421	£120,960	£1,952,382	£20,327	£118,866	£1,943,051	£-11,424	£109,536	£1,941,226	£-11,155
Baylis Court School	Secondary	£4,403,191	£4,585,305	£74,511	£109,380	£182,114	£4,599,351	£14,047	£196,161	£4,598,698	£13,393	£195,507	£4,570,714	£-28,638	£167,523	£4,572,749	£-25,949
Beechwood School	Secondary	£4,795,065	£4,968,460	£55,052	£119,669	£173,395	£4,962,591	£-5,869	£167,526	£4,917,790	£-50,671	£122,724	£4,936,810	£-25,781	£141,745	£4,894,505	£-23,285
Ditton Park Academy	Secondary	£4,666,139	£5,081,786	£311,130	£111,334	£415,647	£5,059,947	£-21,839	£393,809	£5,051,885	£-29,901	£385,746	£5,028,578	£-31,369	£362,440	£5,023,701	£-28,184
Eden Girls' School, Slough	Secondary	£3,037,380	£3,423,962	£412,310	£-29,251	£386,581	£3,443,815	£19,854	£406,435	£3,432,514	£8,553	£395,134	£3,423,590	£-20,225	£386,210	£3,414,525	£-17,990
Herschel Grammar School	Secondary	£3,475,500	£3,712,216	£144,766	£95,682	£236,717	£3,667,017	£-45,199	£191,518	£3,700,060	£-12,157	£224,560	£3,641,769	£-25,249	£166,269	£3,677,714	£-22,346
Langley Grammar School	Secondary	£4,064,954	£4,344,166	£173,156	£110,460	£279,213	£4,311,811	£-32,356	£246,857	£4,337,391	£-6,775	£272,438	£4,311,811	£0	£246,857	£4,311,811	£-25,581
Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy	Secondary	£3,175,866	£3,848,998	£667,561	£6,741	£673,132	£3,899,367	£50,368	£723,501	£3,861,458	£12,459	£685,592	£3,877,591	£-21,776	£701,725	£3,843,059	£-18,399
Slough & Eton C of E Business & Enterprise College	Secondary	£5,704,784	£5,717,505	£12,950	£-230	£12,721	£5,830,566	£113,061	£125,781	£5,830,568	£113,063	£125,784	£5,830,566	£0	£125,781	£5,830,568	£0
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School	Secondary	£3,012,269	£3,259,344	£97,524	£154,164	£247,075	£3,207,368	£-51,976	£195,099	£3,240,810	£-18,534	£228,541	£3,200,001	£-7,367	£187,732	£3,220,321	£-20,489
St Joseph's Catholic High School	Secondary	£4,185,289	£4,525,261	£214,414	£131,803	£339,972	£4,483,753	£-41,508	£298,464	£4,488,662	£-36,599	£303,373	£4,455,493	£-28,260	£270,205	£4,463,584	£-25,079
The Langley Academy	Secondary	£5,037,183	£5,218,459	£40,498	£141,879	£181,276	£5,199,290	£-19,169	£162,106	£5,203,038	£-15,421	£165,855	£5,167,000	£-32,290	£129,816	£5,173,779	£-29,259
The Westgate School	Secondary	£5,077,323	£5,214,883	£0	£137,559	£137,559	£5,165,099	£-49,784	£87,776	£5,182,885	£-31,998	£105,562	£5,132,700	£-32,399	£55,377	£5,153,988	£-28,898
Upton Court Grammar School	Secondary	£3,880,000	£4,088,306	£99,079	£111,940	£208,306	£4,026,318	£-61,988	£146,318	£4,048,780	£-39,525	£168,781	£3,998,617	£-27,701	£118,618	£4,024,108	£-24,672
Wexham School	Secondary	£4,168,031	£4,076,437	£-105,198	£13,262	£-91,594	£4,152,486	£76,049	£-15,545	£4,152,313	£75,877	£-15,717	£4,152,486	£0	£-15,545	£4,152,313	£0
Pass Through Growth Fund		131,715,758 800,000	136,784,128 £600,000			£5,068,370	£136,784,861 £600,000			£136,786,060 £600,000			£136,098,277 £600,000			£136,098,423 £600,000	
<b>Subtotals</b>		<b>£132,515,758</b>	<b>£137,384,128</b>	<b>£2,222,733</b>	<b>£2,863,109</b>	<b>£5,068,370</b>	<b>£137,384,861</b>	<b>£733</b>	<b>£5,069,103</b>	<b>£137,386,060</b>	<b>£1,932</b>	<b>£5,070,301</b>	<b>£136,698,277</b>	<b>£-686,585</b>			

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**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM**  
**1<sup>st</sup> October 2019**

**Directorate of Children, Learning and Skills**

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**2020-21 Schools' Block**  
**proposed 0.5% transfer to High Needs Block**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To brief Forum on the proposal to consult with all schools on the LA's request to 0.5% transfer from the Schools' Block to the High Needs Block for 2020-21, estimated to be around £0.7m. Further information will be issued within the consultation document.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Forum note that the LA will consult with all schools on the proposal to top-slice the Schools' Block, to run alongside the main budget setting consultation.
- 2.2 Once the consultation has concluded, a follow up paper will be submitted to the November Forum providing an update of the results and to request Forum consider the outcome and to vote on whether or not to approve the top-slice request.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 As part of the deficit recovery plan, previously presented to Forum, the ESFA has placed an expectation onto the LA to, at a minimum, balance any in-year pressures within any block, which for Slough and almost all other LAs nationally, sits within the High Needs Block. One efficient mechanism in which to contribute to this expectation is by seeking support from its schools. Whilst the top-slice will not eliminate the funding pressure entirely, it would improve the eventual outturn of the High Needs Block by around £0.7m.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Not applicable

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 Not applicable

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### **6.1 Monitoring Officer**

The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

### **6.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Finance and Resources**

The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

### **6.3 Access Implications**

There are no access implications.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

### **7.1 To be confirmed**

Contact for further information

Domenico Barani

Group Accountant - Children and Schools

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**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM**  
**September 2019**

**Directorate of Children Learning and Skills**

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**First review of SEND Banding (top-up funding) Model**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report provides an overview of what has been learned from an initial review of the new SEND Banding model, the cautious and phased implementation of which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. Specifically, the report presents:

- Data from SEND Panels in July and August
- An analysis of early trends, identifying encouraging signs, initial concerns and potential risks
- Action planned over the autumn term to build upon successes and mitigate potential risks

**1.2 Background**

At its March 2019 meeting Schools' Forum:

- Approved the proposed new Banding model for roll-out from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019
- Agreed to receive further reports at key stages during the extended implementation period, specifically following key monitoring points scheduled for July and December 2019 and April and July 2020

The new SEND banding model is designed to deliver a fair and transparent funding structure and, specifically:

- Align more closely with the SEND Code of Practice
- Offer a common banding structure across mainstream, resource base and specialist provision
- Make transparent the Local Authority's assumptions in assigning monetary values at each Band
- Help shape how Local Authority officers and colleagues in schools understand SEND and specialist support/provision

**2 INITIAL FINDINGS**

**2.1 Headline data from Panel meetings in July and August**

Table 1 below provides an overview of Panel decisions – as they relate to new EHC Assessments - in July and August 2019 compared to the same period in 2018. It also compares Panel's decision with indicative bandings suggested by schools and SEN Officers.

Table 2 provides an overview of Panel decisions – as they relate to Year 5 pupils in advance of phase transfer

Implementation is at an early stage and the relatively small number of cases involved so far means that data can be skewed significantly by a single complex/high cost decision<sup>1</sup>. Taking these limitations into account, the data suggests that some potentially important trends may be emerging.

1. The overall cost to the High Needs Block for the 2 months increased by over 35.6% (£68,500) compared to the same period in 2018.
2. Similarly, the mean cost per EHCP rose by 29% (£2,496), although this trend was probably exaggerated by a very high cost decision by Panel in August
3. The cost of Panel decisions to date relating to Year 5 pupils in preparation for phase transfer represent a modest saving of approx. 7.5% compared to current commitments
4. In July indicative bandings suggested by SEN Officers were broadly in line with the Panel decision. However, bandings suggested by schools were, on average, almost 85% (£8,448 per EHCP) higher.

Table 1

		2019			2018	Annual variation
July		Panel	Officers	Schools	Panel	
	<b>Decisions</b>	21	17	15	15	6
	<b>Total cost</b>	209,000	174,500	276,000	117,000	92,000
	<b>Mean</b>	9,952	10,265	18,400	7,800	2,152
	<b>Variation from Panel</b>		400 (4.0%)	8,448 (84.90%)		
<b>August</b>						
		Panel	Officers	Schools	Panel	
	<b>Decisions</b>	3	1	0	8	3-
	<b>Total cost</b>	57,500	6,000	n/a	81,000	23,500-
	<b>Mean</b>	19,167	6,000	n/a	10,125	9,042
	<b>Variation from Panel</b>		n/a	n/a		
<b>Total</b>						
	<b>Decisions</b>	24			23	1
	<b>Total cost</b>	266,500			198,000	68,500 (35.6%)
	<b>Mean</b>	11,104			8,608	2,496 (29%)

<sup>1</sup> E.G 1 of the 3 decisions in August was to allocate Band 11 (£40,000) funding to a pupil with particularly severe and complex needs

Table 2

<b>Decisions</b>	<b>Current cost</b>	<b>Projected cost</b>	<b>Variation</b>
34	459,982	425,500	34,482

## **2.2 Supporting information**

- i. Some settings, especially PVI's were proactive in seeking support and guidance support in the early stages and reporting increased understanding and confidence as a result.
- ii. There are examples of collaborative dialogue between SEND Officers and schools around banding and individual cases contributing to mutual understanding and greater consistency.
- iii. Evidence from Panel discussions that the early variation between the banding levels suggested by SEND officers and, more recently, education settings is beginning to narrow.
- iv. The "Matrix calculator" has received positive feedback and has helped to reduce instances of miscalculations.
- v. Despite this, it is evident that some education settings have suggested banding levels that are significantly at odds/greater than that determined by Panel. Initial analysis suggests that in such cases settings tended to focus their attention exclusively or primarily on the Matrix front sheet, often failing to refer sufficiently to other contextual pages.
- vi. Advice from the SEND Team and ESEO SEND to refer first to professional reports and Matrix contextual pages before moving onto the front sheet has helped to address this issue and build practitioner understanding and practitioner confidence.

## **2.3 Initial conclusions**

### **Encouraging signs:**

Narrative feedback suggests that the confidence and consistency with which the Matrix is being used is growing as education and SEN professionals become more familiar with it. Particular encouraging have been examples of:

- Increasing rigour and professional decision making based on professional advice
- Strengthened collaboration between SEN Officers and Education settings

- Education Settings responding positively and improving practice in response to support and guidance, including requests for further support

### **Concerns and potential risks**

Implementation is at an early stage and variations in understanding and practice are to be expected.

While data is needed over a longer period of time before trends can be identified with any confidence, initial signs of additional financial pressures within the High Needs Block, are of concern and require close monitoring

### **3 ACTION PLANNED**

The following action is planned in response to feedback and learning to date:

- The Quality and Performance work stream will continue to monitor Panel decisions on a monthly basis, paying particular attention to any financial pressures that may begin to become established as more data emerges
- We will continue to offer regular briefings to internal and external partners<sup>2</sup>
- We will continued to offer individual visits to setting on request and use Panel discussions as an ongoing training opportunity
- We will make a minor revision to EHC request to assess documentation and guidance to make clearer where and how the Matrix fits within the overall procedures
- Work is planned with Educational Psychologists and members of BHFT to review and strengthen SCLN descriptors, with a view to inform and improve alignment with professionals reports

### **4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 Schools' Forum is asked to:

- Note initial findings and action planned in response
- Receive further reports following future key monitoring points scheduled in December 2019 and April and July 2020

### **5 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

Introducing a new funding model of this kind is a complex undertaking. Close oversight is needed to:

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<sup>2</sup> e.g., Early Years Advisory Teachers, 15.10.19



- Keep to an absolute minimum any financial risk to individual education settings and the High Needs Block
- Make sure that all those involved understand and are confident in using the model
- Use feedback and learning from the early phases to refine and improve the model further.

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**Slough Schools' Forum: 2019/20  
Forward Agenda Plan**

**Meeting 1 – Tuesday 1 October 2019**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>
1	Schools Forum Membership	
2	Update on National/Local funding issues	Nic Barani
3	5-16 Funding 2020-21	Nic Barani
4	Proposal to transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block	Nic Barani
5	Scheme for Financing Schools	Nic Barani
6	SEND Banding Update	Vikram Hansrani
7	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years	
8	Academies Update	
9	2019/20 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log	

**Meeting 2 – Tuesday 12 November 2019**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>
1	Update on National/Local Funding issues	Nic Barani
2	Schools Block 2020/21 - proposed formula changes and consultation outcome	Nic Barani
3	High Needs Block Centrally Retained Budget (line by line detail)	
4	High Needs Block Deficit Recovery strategy	
5	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years	
6	Academies Update	
7	2019/20 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log	

**Meeting 3 – Wednesday 15 January 2020**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>
1	Update on National/Local Funding issues	Nic Barani
2	Schools Block Budget - Final Authority Proforma Tool (APT) and timeline for 2020/21	Nic Barani
3	DSG Budget monitoring report (all blocks)	Nic Barani
4	High Needs and SEN budget monitoring report including QA report and High Needs Place Change Notification	TBC
5	Central Schools Services Block budget 2020/21 Approvals	
6	Growth fund allocations and issues	Tony Madden
7	Early Years Block 2020/21 – Including Centrally Retained and proposed formula	
8	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years	
9	Academies Update	
10	2019/20 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log	

**Meeting 4 –Tuesday 3 March 2020**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>
1	Update on National/Local Funding issues	Nic Barani
2	Confirmation of Schools budgets 2020/21	Nic Barani
3	High Needs Places and Update on HNB 2020/21	
4	Update on centrally retained items: all blocks 2020/21	Nic Barani
5	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years	
6	Academies Update	
7	2019/20 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log	

**Meeting 5 – Wednesday -13 May 2020**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>
1	Update on National/Local Funding issues	Nic Barani
2	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years	
3	Academies Update	
4	2019/20 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log	

**Meeting 6 – Wednesday 1 July 2020**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>
1	Update on National/Local Funding issues	Nic Barani
2	Update on growth allocations and issues	Tony Madden
3	Annual DSG Report 2019/20 including impact	Nic Barani
4	Review of the Scheme for Financing Schools 2019/20	Nic Barani
5	Early Years Update	Michael Jarrett
6	Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years (verbal) To include annual review of Terms of Reference	
7	Schools Forum Membership	
8	Academies Update	
9	2020/21 Forward Agenda Plan/Key Decisions Log	

**Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2016 and ongoing**

<b>Issue and Decision</b>	<b>Schools Forum date</b>	<b>Schools Forum agenda item no.</b>	<b>School Forum Minute</b>
<b>Membership Update</b>			
Kathleen Higgins attending as an observer now that Beechwood is an academy	13/10/16	4	511
<b>PFI Proposal</b>			
Clarification of factor and SBC contribution to affordability gap deferred to December	13/10/16	5	510
<b>High Needs Block</b>			
Significant pressure on High Needs Block with overspend in range of 800k. Range of recovery options being considered by SBC	13/10/16	7	514
<b>PFI Update</b>			
£500k PFI contribution raised by the new finance officer (section 151). It was flagged up that the council may need to make a further request for contribution from the DSG. Other savings will be explored across the council but if a further request is made a full consultation will be employed with schools.	06/12/16	5	524
<b>High Needs Block</b>			
Overspend has been reduced to £300k at the current time. Figure can still fluctuate. Detailed recovery plan will be drafted.	06/12/16	6	525
<b>Centrally Retained</b>			
Recommendation agreed to retain £723,598	06/12/16	7	526
<b>Education Support Grant</b>			
School improvement and statutory services noted and Schools Forum agreed the transfer of the £430k from ESG to centrally retained. Total supported functions amount to £1.036 million. Includes bridging post between STSA and SBC	06/12/16	8	527
<b>De-delegated items</b>			
Behaviour Support Services (SEBDOS) approved but 5k for trade union activity NOT approved	06/12/16	10	529
<b>Growth Fund 2017-18</b>			
£900k centrally retained support for primary and secondary 2017/18 approved.	06/12/16	11	530
<b>Matters arising</b>			
SBC will not seek any portion of 500k PFI affordability gap for 2017/18. May present new proposals for 2018-19 following full consultation.	10/01/17	2	537
<b>ESG de-delegation</b>			
45k ESG de-delegation paper approved by maintained schools.	10/01/17	3	538
<b>Schools Block Budget</b>			
SBC consulted on requesting one-off 300k top slice from High Needs Block. Slough losing money overall as a result of change to National Funding Formula. Schools Forum encourages all schools to respond to Phase 2 of the DfE NFF consultation which closes 22nd March and will share response from Schools Forum once complete at March meeting.	10/01/17	4 and 5	539
<b>Forum membership</b>			
Updated membership in light of academy conversions meant deleting two vacancies from maintained schools and need to recruit two new academy members.	10/01/17	9	544
<b>National Fair Funding Update</b>			
DfE Stage 2 consultation: schools were encouraged to make individual responses (deadline 22nd March) in addition to collective Schools Forum response. <a href="https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/">https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/</a>	09/02/17	4	550
<b>Growth Fund 2017-18</b>			
2017-18 Growth Fund criteria agreed. Unit values were previously in line with 2015-16 AWPU values, but 2017-18 AWPU rates will now be used, with average of KS3 and KS4 for secondary. Agreed to fund numbers in bulge classes which open / fill after October census subject to costing and noted that Growth Fund criteria have to be confirmed by Schools Forum every year.	09/02/17	6	552
<b>High Needs Block</b>			
Schools Forum consulted on draft High Needs Block and some outstanding clarifications pending. .	09/02/17	7	553
<b>Matters Arising</b>			
A firm commitment was made by the LA to bring a detailed report to the October Schools Forum meeting to explain all PFI identified within the DSG, particularly relating to the Council's contribution and to the High Needs Block.	06/07/17	3	562

**Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2016 and ongoing**

<b>Review of Scheme for Financing Schools</b>			
A review will be completed over summer with consultation (maintained schools only) in September and proposals for any amendments to come to Schools Forum in October.	06/07/17	4	563
<b>Early Years Funding Formula</b>			
The hourly rates for 2 year olds, and for 3 and 4 year olds have been implemented following consultation; consultation will be carried out with regard to 2018/19 formula; required to move to full implementation of universal base rate for 3 and 4 year olds by April 2019.	06/07/17	6	565
<b>Membership</b>			
Vacancies in academy membership and extensions of terms of office of a number of members to be progressed with relevant groups: academy proprietors and Chairs of Governors as appropriate.	06/07/17	7	566
<b>High Needs Block Centrally Retained</b>			
Centrally retained budget of £2.4 million: work in progress with savings of £100k identified to date; further review over the summer and detailed breakdown will be provided for October Schools Forum including all references to PFI in High Needs Block.	06/07/17	8	567
<b>High Needs Group Terms of Reference</b>			
Terms of Reference for High Needs Group were endorsed.	06/07/17	9	568
<b>Membership</b>			
The membership of a number of members of Schools Forum was confirmed for a further term of office to July 2019 following consultation with academies and maintained schools: Maggie Waller, Navroop Mehat, Carol Pearce and Angela Mellish (maintained) and Helen Huntley, Gillian Coffey, Nicky Willis, Jo Rockall and John Constable (academies). Three academy vacancies: Kathleen Higgins and Valerie Harffey proposals have been agreed; one further nomination had been made: Peter Collins and this will be followed up.	10/10/17	2	575
<b>Chair and Vice Chair</b>			
Election of Maggie Waller as Chair and John Constable as Vice Chair confirmed to June 2018	10/10/17	2	575
<b>Schools' DSG Out-Turn 2016/17</b>			
Report noted with the 13 maintained schools carry forward balances.	10/10/17	5	578
<b>Early Years Funding</b>			
Report noted and EY Task Group to meet as part of the development of the 2018-19 budget.	10/10/17	6	579
<b>High Needs Block</b>			
Report noted including 2016/17 overspend in High Needs Block on £1,468,700. Aim is to balance the spend over two years and work is ongoing with further detail and clarification to be covered in High Needs Block group due to meet in October.	10/10/17	7	580
<b>National Funding Formula</b>			
Update provided and Task Group to meet to look at modelling for 2018/19 transition to NFF.	10/10/17	10	583
<b>Langley Hall Primary Academy: Exceptional Premises Factor Request</b>			
A request from Langley Hall Primary Academy for the creation of an exceptional premises factor to support payment of a school buildings lease was referred to all schools for full and detailed consultation. Following the consultation, as proposed in the report, Schools Forum will make the final decision about the factor, taking account of the results of the consultation.	10/10/17	11	584
<b>Scheme for Financing Schools</b>			
Consultation with maintained schools to take place on changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools. Changes are to bring Scheme in line with DfE current guidance.	10/10/17	12	585
<b>School Improvement and Education Services Grant 2017/18</b>			
Report corrected inaccuracies from December 2016 reports and re-profiled the ESG elements correctly. Implication is that funding of School Improvement supported by Schools Forum could be reduced for 2018/19.	10/10/17	13	586
<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>			
John Constable would write to academy proprietors requesting approval of the appointment of Peter Collins	09/11/17	3	593
Clerk to draft letter to members who did not attend Schools Forum meetings regularly			
John Voytal to circulate table of Scheme for Financing Schools			
<b>Schools National Funding Formula 2018/19</b>			
NFF models to be submitted to 5-16 Task Group prior to consultation with schools	09/11/17	5	595
<b>Schools Forum Constitution Update</b>			
Slough Schools Forum Guidance update to be taken to full Council	09/11/17	7	597

**Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2016 and ongoing**

<b>Matters Arising</b>			
Noted closing date for election process for academy member noted: Friday 8 December 2017	06/12/17	2	602
<b>Formula Changes for 2018/19</b>			
3 options presented at meeting, consultation to be sent to schools, agreed to extend closing date for responses to 9 January 2018.	06/12/17	4	604
<b>Scheme for Financing Schools</b>			
Reported no issues following consultation. Consultation with maintained schools completed. Maintained schools' members of Forum approved the revised scheme.	06/12/17	6	606
<b>Report on Resources Base Task Group Proposal/High Needs Commissioning Places</b>			
Review of bandings to be carried out and separate Task Group to be formed to focus on Resource Bases. High Needs Commissioned places summary presented and increase to places noted. List of applicable schools to be reviewed.	06/12/17	8 and 9	608/609
<b>High Needs Centrally Retained Clarification (budget codes and descriptors/Centrally Retained Budgets 2017-18)</b>			
Updated centrally retained budget information presented with updated descriptors following meetings of High Needs Task Group; proportion of budget spent to date to be presented at next meeting of Schools Forum with further information.	06/12/17	10 and 11	610/611
<b>Matters Arising</b>			
Peter Collins agreed as member of Schools Forum, representing academy schools.	17/01/18	3	617
<b>2017/18 DSG Monitoring Report</b>			
Schools Forum noted DSG projected overspend of £3.4M across all three blocks – Schools, Early Years and High Needs with projected £4.1m cumulative overspend in High Needs Block.	17/01/18	4	618
<b>Funding Formula Changes 2018/19</b>			
Consultation with schools closed, 41% response, majority in favour of Option 2. £165k additional funding available following transfer into CSSB agreed under agenda item 6; Forum endorsed SB Task Group recommendation to allocate this funding in proportion across the factors in the formula.	17/01/18	5	619
<b>Central Services Schools Block (CSSB)</b>			
Forum approved transfer of £124,000 for licences and £52,000 for historical items to CSSB from Schools Block, to cover partial shortfall in DfE funding. Updated report subsequently posted on SBC website following meeting	17/01/18	6	620
<b>Early Years</b>			
Forum noted EY Task Group recommendations regarding implementation of EYNFF for 2018-19	17/01/18	7	621
<b>Growth Fund 2017-18</b>			
Forum approved approximately £90,000 from 2017/18 underspend to part-fund Grove Academy 'ghost places' places. Forum agreed Growth Fund criteria for 2018/19, with AWPU rates based on 2018-19 formula.	17/01/18	8	622
<b>De-delegation Report</b>			
Maintained school members agreed de-delegation for SEBDOS Behaviour Support Service, subject to revised unit costs, to reflect rates for primary and secondary as agreed in December 2015.	17/01/18	9	623
<b>2017-18 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decision Log</b>			
Forum agreed appointment of Chair and Vice Chair be held at July 2018 meeting, prior to first meeting in the 2018-19 academic year.	17/01/18	12	626
<b>Confirmation of Indicative Budgets 2018-19</b>			
Schools Forum agreed to transfer funding as follows: £17,325 from HNB to the CSSB £100,045 from HNB to the CSSB for ongoing responsibilities £548,000 from HNB to the SB for PFI	06/03/18	5	632
<b>Early Years Block</b>			
The same level of activity and model for 2018-19 would be required to maintain a similar level of centrally retained spend. In principle, Schools Forum endorsed this and a detailed report would be presented at the next meeting for formal approval.	06/03/18	6	633
<b>PFI Update Report</b>			
The Schools Block contribution was confirmed as £297,000 for one academic year only, 2018-19 and would be reviewed for 2019-20	06/03/18	8	634

## Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2016 and ongoing

A table would be produced to show where contributions had been made to the sum of £297,000.			
<b>High Needs Block Budget 2018-19</b>			
Members approved the centrally retained element for 2018-19 of £2.3m, which was a slight decrease on 2017-18.	06/03/18	9	635
<b>Membership</b>			
Kathy Perry from Mighty Acorns Nursery, was welcomed as the new PVI representative member.	05/07/18	1	640
The Chair thanked Helen Huntley (who was retiring at the end of the Summer Term) for her valuable contributions as both a member of Schools Forum and as a champion of children and young people with special needs.	05/07/18	1 & 11	640/652
<b>Annual DSG Report 2017-18</b>			
Schools Forum noted the comprehensive DSG annual report and requested this appear as an annual item on agendas	05/07/18	7	646
<b>Review of the Scheme for Financing Schools 2017-18</b>			
Schools Forum noted the consultation but requested that details of any licensed deficit scheme be circulated to Schools Forum prior to consultation	05/07/18	8	647
<b>Early Years Centrally Retained 2018-19</b>			
The details of the centrally retained Early Years funding for 2018-19 set out in the report were noted and lines of expenditure approved	05/07/18	9	648
<b>Update from Task Groups</b>			
Draft Terms of Reference for all three Task Groups were approved by Schools Forum	05/07/18	10	649
<b>Election of Chair and Vice Chair</b>			
<b>The current Chair of Schools Forum would stand down at the end of the academic year: John Constable was proposed and duly elected to Chair of Schools Forum with effect from 1 September 2018, for a term of two years.</b>	05/07/18	11	652
<b>Schools Forum Membership/appointment of Vice Chair</b>			
Noted that three members' terms of office due to finish 30 November 2018 and one further member had resigned.			
Forum agreed re-appointment of Jo Matthews as Special School/PRU Headteacher representative for a further year.			
Nominations to be sought from academy proprietors for the other three roles.			
One nomination for the role of Vice Chair and Nicky Willis, Executive Principal of Cippenham Primary School duly appointed for a two-year term.	10/10/18	4	656
<b>Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years</b>			
Following 5-16 Task Group meeting, consultation to run with local schools from 15 October - 5 November 2018 regarding two options to move towards NFF (National Funding Formula of either 50% or 75%. Comments from schools to be invited. Task Group to meet again on 13th November following outcome of consultation.	10/10/18	9	658
<b>Consultation results on the Scheme for Financing Schools and Licensed Deficit Scheme</b>			
LA to write into the Scheme that maintained schools will be involved in discussions.			
Schools Forum approved the Scheme for Financing Schools.	10/10/18	6	659
<b>Schools Forum Membership</b>			
Following due process, Jon Reekie, governor at Phoenix Infant Academy reappointed, Susan Marsh, Headteacher Colnbrook Primary School and Ray Hinds, Baylis Court appointed, all for terms of two years. Eddie Neighbour, Upton Court Grammar School agreed to continue as an observer.	04/12/18	5	668
<b>Growth Fund 2019/20</b>			
DSG top slice for 2019/20 of £900,000 was requested. SBC was also asked to underwrite Year 7 places at Grove Academy: Schools Forum agreed to fund £90,000 for 2018/19, and to continue the underwriting into 2019/20 as the third and final year with a maximum of £60,000 or 50% of the cost, whichever was the lower.			
Schools Forum also agreed the criteria for accessing Growth Fund in 2019/20 as proposed. With all these commitments taken into account, SF agreed a reduced DSG top slice of £800,000, leaving an estimated carry forward of £130,000 at the end of 2019/20. Falling rolls were thought likely to really impact in the year 2021/22 and it was suggested a supporting paper be presented to Schools Forum in the summer 2019.	04/12/18	8	671
<b>DSG Budget 2019/20</b>			
A request was made to Schools Forum to approve re-allocation of funds to the correct blocks in order to correct DfE baseline errors.			
Schools Forum agreed to transfer £264,566 from High Needs Block to CSSB, £500,000 from High Needs Block to Schools Block, to re-allocate Virtual School funding of £100,000 from Historical commitment to Ongoing commitment within the CSSB, a move from 50% to 65% NFF in 2019/20 formula (following inconclusive consultation outcome). Schools Forum rejected SBC's proposal to transfer 0.5% (approximately £650,000) from 5-16 Schools Block to High Needs Block, based on the outcome of the consultation with schools.	04/12/18	9	672
<b>Banding (High Needs top-up funding) Working Group update</b>			
New Banding model to continue to be tested, with workshops and training sessions to be made available during the Spring term 2019.	04/12/18	10	673
<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>			
Jo Matthews had stood down as Special School/PRU Representative but would continue as an Observer. The 3 special/PRU academies had confirmed that Neil Sykes would become Academy Special School member and Jamie Rockman Academy PRU member, both for 2 year terms of office w/e/f date of S/F meeting	16/01/19	4	681



## Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2016 and ongoing

S/F acknowledged the projected DSG outturn and approved the overall deficit should be carried forward into 2019-20	16/01/19	4	681
<b>De-delegated funding for behaviour support services</b>			
3 out of 4 S/F members representing maintained schools had voted against the de-delegation of funding from maintained school budgets for inclusion in the Schools Block APT	16/01/19	7	684
<b>Early Years Centrally Retained Funds 2019/20</b>			
Schools Forum members noted and agreed the use of Centrally Retained Funds 2019/20 for the Early Years block.	16/01/19	8	687
<b>High Needs Block - Deficit Reduction Strategy</b>			
The ESFA had requested that LAs inform them how deficits, particularly in High Needs, were being addressed. The LA had responded that it was doing all it could to address the issue and this work was ongoing. There was evidence of underfunding whilst demand was increasing. The link between High Needs and PFI was acknowledged and would be taken into account to reduce the deficit. A supporting paper would be presented to S/F for their March 2019 meeting.	16/01/19	10	685
<b>High Needs Block – Centrally Retained Budget 2018/19</b>			
New commissioned Speech & Language service commissioned to be available from Friday 1 February. Communication to be made re. launch.	16/01/19	11	686
<b>Any Other Business</b>			
Chair of S/F to write to the Education Secretary, on behalf of members, regarding the proposal to withdraw supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools.	16/01/19	15	692
<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>			
S/F meeting scheduled for Wednesday 15 May cancelled.	05/03/19	3	695
<b>High Needs Funding - final proposal for banding model</b>			
Consultation was extended by 2 weeks, closing on 1 March. New banding model to be introduced 1 April 2019, agreed feedback be given July and December 2019, and April and July 2020. Some continuing concerns from special schools but work ongoing with Vikram Hansrani. Key monitoring reports to be shared with S/F.			
S/F approved the new banding model and agreed to receive feedback reports at the key stages noted.	05/03/19	6	698
<b>Update on Central School Services Block</b>			
Due to slight increase in copyright costs the amount required for transfer from High Needs to CSSB reduced by approximately £10,000.	05/03/19	8	700
<b>PFI Update</b>			
Noted Council reviewing High Needs Block and possible Section 106 funding.	05/03/19	9	701
<b>Schools Forum membership</b>			
Terms of office of nine members due to finish 31 July 2019. Clerk to arrange nomination process/elections (if appropriate)	05/03/19	12	704
<b>Matters Arising</b>			
Decision made taken by SBC to fund the £184,000 to 3 PFI schools and guarantee to be taken.	04/07/19	3	709
<b>Growth Fund 2018/19</b>			
Forum noted the contents of the Growth Fund 2018/19 outturn report and agreed the underwriting for Grove of £90,000 to £25,000 (2018/19) and maximum from £60,000 to £90,000 (2019/20)	04/07/19	5	711
<b>DSG Budget Deficit Recovery Plan</b>			
Neil Wilcox and Nic Barani to clarify whether historic £184,000 related to PFI contribution for Arbour Vale.	04/07/19	7	713
<b>Review of the Scheme for Financing Schools 2019/20</b>			
LA noted that maintained schools to be consulted on dates of publishing such consultations in future.	04/07/19	8	714
<b>Update from Task Groups</b>			
All Task Groups to meet before November 2019 Schools Forum meeting. A list of respective Task Group members to be drawn up for regular circulation to members.			
Terms of Reference for 5-16, HNB and Early Years Task Groups approved, without change, for academic year 2019/20	04/07/19	9	715
<b>Schools Forum membership</b>			
An email sent to all local schools, inviting nominations for membership	04/07/19	10	716
<b>Any Other Business</b>			
Forum approved the transfer of approximately £54,153 to Local School Improvement Board (LSIF) from Slough Primary Heads' Association (SPHA), being the remainder of £70,000 grant from DSG underspend agreed in 2016 to address issues around Recruitment and Retention.	04/07/19	13	719

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