

SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM
12th January 2016

Cambridge Education Centrally Retained underspend from 2014-15 and the allocation of the Centrally Retained budget (held by the Local Authority) for 2016/17 (not approved in December 2015)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is to provide details of a project to assist in improving the attainment and progress in mathematics at Key Stage 2 in particular schools across Slough.

Key Stage 2 results have been steadily improving over the last five years. However, the validated results for summer 2015 for combined reading, writing and maths are the same as the previous year, whereas national results have improved by 2%. This leaves Slough at 116th when compared with the 152 local authorities across the country. Analysis has indicated that an important area for attention is improving the maths results in particular Slough schools and academies.

Consequently, two projects have been considered to assist in improving performance. The first is a booster programme focusing on the Year 6 pupils taking their end of Key Stage assessment in May 2016. Clearly, this is an approach seeking a quick improvement. The funding for this has been agreed by Schools Forum and the project implementation is under way.

Alongside this and of greater relevance is a longer term and more substantive programme to achieve improvements across Key Stage 2 which are sustainable over time. **The appendix attached gives the outline of this programme.**

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

For Schools Forum to support the introduction of this mastery programme in maths as soon as it is feasible and practical to do so given that there has been a delay in allocating the funding. It will be focused on key schools which need to improve performance where they are receptive to this engagement. The project will commence in 2016 and be followed through to 2017 in the first instance. This will be initiated with recognition that it will now be too late to have any substantive beneficial effect on the Key Stage assessment results for 2016. The cost is between £50k to £70k depending on how many schools become involved in the programme. An allocation of £70k is being requested and any unspent money will be returned to Schools Forum for consideration on its usage at a later stage.

See Appendix A:

From 2014-15 centrally retained funding held by Cambridge Education on behalf of the Local Authority:

Maths Project: Sustainability across the primary phase (KS2): £70,000

Alongside this project, Schools Forum is also asked to endorse the proposed spends as specified in Appendix A.

School Improvement consultant: exploring future options (already agreed by Schools Forum): **£20,000**

Maths Booster Programme for Year 6 (already agreed by Schools Forum): **£35,000**

Learning support for Looked After Children: £35,000

To be returned to Schools Block budget for use in 2016-17 (one off allocation across all schools): £72,994

Also for consideration by Schools Forum are the proposed spends by the Local Authority for 2016-17 as shown in Appendix A

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

This project is being introduced to promote attainment and progress in maths at Key Stage 2 where performance is not at expected or required levels as pointed out recently through communications to the Local Authority by the Department for Education and Ofsted.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Clearly, schools are at liberty to take what action they consider most appropriate to improve performance in maths. Some schools will understandably continue with their current strategies where they are convinced that this course of action will give improved performance.

A booster programme has been selected to enhance Year 6 performance during their final year of primary education.

Headteachers are agreed that this mastery programme provides good value for money in providing a longer term solution for those schools with depressed results.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 **See attached appendix which gives details of the project, reasons for pursuing it and associated costs.**

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

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

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

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

Access Implications

- 6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 None.

Method of Consultation

7.2 Not applicable.

Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable.

Contact for further information

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