

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
9th February 2017

(Directorate of Children's Services)

High Needs Block 2017-18

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consult with the Schools' Forum on the High Needs Block budget for 2017-18.

Background

The budget for the High Needs Block (HNB) within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has been allocated in the same way as last year, no changes have been made to the centrally retained items. There has been an increase in the HNB from the Schools' Block of £300k; this funding has been allocated for "top up" funding within the HNB.

The High Needs budget is **£22.739m** for 2017-18 which is made up of the DFE contribution of **£22.130m**, the Council's contribution to PFI of **£309k** and an additional **£300k** from the Schools Block budgets. The Schools' Forum was consulted on this "topslice" at the January 2017 meeting.

Even with these additions and some additional funding from the DFE for 1718, the estimated budget built still shows a shortfall of nearly **£500k**. The Council is conducting financial reviews on the whole High Needs Block with the aim of achieving a balanced budget as soon as possible as part of a 3 year plan.

Please see Appendix A for 2017-18 indicative budget for the High Needs Block.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Schools' Forum review the High Needs budget and gives a view on the budget allocation for 2017-18

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The DFE requires an annual consultation between the Local Authority and the Schools' Forum on the High Needs Block Budget. The Local Authority is complying with its statutory obligation to consult with the Schools' Forum and obtain their views.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Not applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5.1 The High Needs Block is one of three blocks within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer

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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