

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2016 and ongoing

Issue and Decision	Schools Forum date	Schools Forum agenda item no.	School Forum Minute
Membership Update			
Kathleen Higgins attending as an observer now that Beechwood is an academy	13/10/2016	4	511
PFI Proposal			
Clarification of factor and SBC contribution to affordability gap deferred to December	13/10/2016	5	510
High Needs Block			
Significant pressure on High Needs Block with overspend in range of 800k. Range of recovery options being considered by SBC	13/10/2016	7	514
PFI Update			
£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.	06/12/2016	5	524
High Needs Block			
Overspend has been reduced to £300k at the current time. Figure can still fluctuate. Detailed recovery plan will be drafted.	06/12/2016	6	525
Centrally Retained			
Recommendation agreed to retain £723,598	06/12/2016	7	526
Education Support Grant			
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	06/12/2016	8	527
De-delegated items			
Behaviour Support Services (SEBDOS) approved but 5k for trade union activity NOT approved	06/12/2016	10	529
Growth Fund 2017-18			
£900k centrally retained support for primary and secondary 2017/18 approved.	06/12/2016	11	530
Matters arising			
SBC will not seek any portion of 500k PFI affordability gap for 2017/18. May present new proposals for 2018-19 following full consultation.	10/01/2017	2	537
ESG de-delegation			
45k ESG de-delegation paper approved by maintained schools.	10/01/2017	3	538
Schools Block Budget			
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.	10/01/2017	4 and 5	539
Forum membership			
Updated membership in light of academy conversions meant deleting two vacancies from maintained schools and need to recruit two new academy members.	10/01/2017	9	544
National Fair Funding Update			
DfE Stage 2 consultation: schools were encouraged to make individual responses (deadline 22nd March) in addition to collective Schools Forum response. https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/	09/02/2017	4	550
Growth Fund 2017-18			
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.	09/02/2017	6	552
High Needs Block			
Schools Forum consulted on draft High Needs Block and some outstanding clarifications pending. .	09/02/2017	7	553
Matters Arising			

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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.	06/07/2017	3	562
Review of Scheme for Financing Schools			
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.	06/07/2017	4	563
Early Years Funding Formula			
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.	06/07/2017	6	565
Membership			
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.	06/07/2017	7	566
High Needs Block Centrally Retained			
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.	06/07/2017	8	567
High Needs Group Terms of Reference			
Terms of Reference for High Needs Group were endorsed.	06/07/2017	9	568
Membership			
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.	10/10/2017	2	575
Chair and Vice Chair			
Election of Maggie Waller as Chair and John Constable as Vice Chair confirmed to June 2018	10/10/2017	2	575
Schools' DSG Out-Turn 2016/17			
Report noted with the 13 maintained schools carry forward balances.	10/10/2017	5	578
Early Years Funding			
Report noted and EY Task Group to meet as part of the development of the 2018-19 budget.	10/10/2017	6	579
High Needs Block			
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.	10/10/2017	7	580
National Funding Formula			
Update provided and Task Group to meet to look at modelling for 2018/19 transition to NFF.	10/10/2017	10	583
Langley Hall Primary Academy: Exceptional Premises Factor Request			
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.	10/10/2017	11	584
Scheme for Financing Schools			
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.	10/10/2017	12	585
School Improvement and Education Services Grant 2017/18			
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.	10/10/2017	13	586
Minutes of Previous Meeting			
John Constable would write to academy proprietors requesting approval of the appointment of Peter Collins for the remaining academy vacancy.	09/11/2017	3	593
Langley Hall Primary Academy Trust (LHPAT)			

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Schools Forum noted and accepted the responses to the consultation about an exceptional premises factor for LHPAT; these were 100% not in support of such a factor. The Schools Forum agreed not to recommend a change to the formula to include an exceptional premises factor. Cate Duffy stated that the Council will support the recommendation of Schools Forum. Forum also noted and supported the lobbying of the ESFA and RSC being done by the LA.	09/11/2017	4	594
Schools National Funding Formula 2018/19			595
It was agreed that NFF models would be submitted to 5-16 Task Group prior to consultation with all schools.	09/11/2017	5	
Update from Task Groups			
Schools Forum noted progress in working towards universal base rates and modelling to be done across range of options and a report brought to January 2018 Schools Forum.			
Work ongoing to provide clarity re HNB centrally retained budgets and LA committed to such clarity being achieved by November HNB Group meeting.	09/11/2017	6	596
Schools Forum Constitution Update			
The amended Schools Forum Constitution was approved by Schools Forum and commended to the LA to endorse.	09/11/2017	7	597