

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	13/10/16	4	511
PFI Proposal			
Clarification of factor and SBC contribution to affordability gap deferred to December	13/10/16	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	13/10/16	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.	06/12/16	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.	06/12/16	6	525
Centrally Retained			
Recommendation agreed to retain £723,598	06/12/16	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	06/12/16	8	527
De-delegated items			
Behaviour Support Services (SEBDOS) approved but 5k for trade union activity NOT approved	06/12/16	10	529
Growth Fund 2017-18			
£900k centrally retained support for primary and secondary 2017/18 approved.	06/12/16	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.	10/01/17	2	537
ESG de-delegation			
45k ESG de-delegation paper approved by maintained schools.	10/01/17	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.	10/01/17	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.	10/01/17	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/	09/02/17	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.	09/02/17	6	552
High Needs Block			
Schools Forum consulted on draft High Needs Block and some outstanding clarifications pending. .	09/02/17	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.	06/07/17	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.	06/07/17	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.	06/07/17	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.	06/07/17	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.	06/07/17	8	567
High Needs Group Terms of Reference			
Terms of Reference for High Needs Group were endorsed.	06/07/17	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.	10/10/17	2	575
Chair and Vice Chair			
Election of Maggie Waller as Chair and John Constable as Vice Chair confirmed to June 2018	10/10/17	2	575
Schools' DSG Out-Turn 2016/17			
Report noted with the 13 maintained schools carry forward balances.	10/10/17	5	578
Early Years Funding			
Report noted and EY Task Group to meet as part of the development of the 2018-19 budget.	10/10/17	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.	10/10/17	7	580
National Funding Formula			
Update provided and Task Group to meet to look at modelling for 2018/19 transition to NFF.	10/10/17	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.	10/10/17	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.	10/10/17	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.	10/10/17	13	586
Minutes of Previous Meeting			
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			
Schools National Funding Formula 2018/19			
NFF models to be submitted to 5-16 Task Group prior to consultation with schools	09/11/17	5	595

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Schools Forum Constitution Update			
Slough Schools Forum Guidance update to be taken to full Council	09/11/17	7	597
Matters Arising			
Noted closing date for election process for academy member noted: Friday 8 December 2017	06/12/17	2	602
Formula Changes for 2018/19			
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
Scheme for Financing Schools			
Reported no issues following consultation. Consultation with maintained schools completed. Maintained schools' members of Forum approved the revised scheme.	06/12/17	6	606
Report on Resources Base Task Group Proposal/High Needs Commissioning Places			
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
High Needs Centrally Retained Clarification (budget codes and descriptors/Centrally Retained Budgets 2017-18)			
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
Matters Arising			
Peter Collins agreed as member of Schools Forum, representing academy schools.	17/01/18	3	617
2017/18 DSG Monitoring Report			
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
Funding Formula Changes 2018/19			
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
Central Services Schools Block (CSSB)			
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
Early Years			
Forum noted EY Task Group recommendations regarding implementation of EYNFF for 2018-19	17/01/18	7	621
Growth Fund 2017-18			
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
De-delegation Report			
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
2017-18 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decision Log			
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
Confirmation of Indicative Budgets 2018-19			
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
Early Years Block			
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

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PFI Update Report			
The Schools Block contribution was confirmed as £297,000 for one academic year only, 2018-19 and would be reviewed for 2019-20 A table would be produced to show where contributions had been made to the sum of £297,000.	06/03/18	8	634
High Needs Block Budget 2018-19			
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
Membership			
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
Annual DSG Report 2017-18			
Schools Forum noted the comprehensive DSG annual report and requested this appear as an annual item on agendas	05/07/18	7	646
Review of the Scheme for Financing Schools 2017-18			
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
Early Years Centrally Retained 2018-19			
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
Update from Task Groups			
Draft Terms of Reference for all three Task Groups were approved by Schools Forum	05/07/18	10	649
Election of Chair and Vice Chair			
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.	05/07/18	11	652