

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 | | | |
| 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

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| 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 |
| Schools Forum Constitution Update | | | |
| 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

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| 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 |
| 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 | 06/03/18 | 8 | 634 |

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log September 2016 and ongoing

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| A table would be produced to show where contributions had been made to the sum of £297,000. | | | |
| 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 |
| Schools Forum Membership/appointment of Vice Chair | | | |
| 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 |
| Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years | | | |
| 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 |
| Consultation results on the Scheme for Financing Schools and Licensed Deficit Scheme | | | |
| 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 |
| Schools Forum Membership | | | |
| 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 |
| Growth Fund 2019/20 | | | |
| 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 |
| DSG Budget 2019/20 | | | |
| 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 |
| Banding (High Needs top-up funding) Working Group update | | | |
| 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 |
| Minutes of Previous Meeting | | | |
| 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

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| S/F acknowledged the projected DSG outturn and approved the overall deficit should be carried forward into 2019-20 | 16/01/19 | 4 | 681 |
| De-delegated funding for behaviour support services | | | |
| 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 |
| Early Years Centrally Retained Funds 2019/20 | | | |
| Schools Forum members noted and agreed the use of Centrally Retained Funds 2019/20 for the Early Years block. | 16/01/19 | 8 | 687 |
| High Needs Block - Deficit Reduction Strategy | | | |
| 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 |
| High Needs Block – Centrally Retained Budget 2018/19 | | | |
| New commissioned Speech & Language service commissioned to be available from Friday 1 February. Communication to be made re. launch. | 16/01/19 | 11 | 686 |
| Any Other Business | | | |
| 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 |
| Minutes of Previous Meeting | | | |
| S/F meeting scheduled for Wednesday 15 May cancelled. | 05/03/19 | 3 | 695 |
| High Needs Funding - final proposal for banding model | | | |
| 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 |
| Update on Central School Services Block | | | |
| 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 |
| PFI Update | | | |
| Noted Council reviewing High Needs Block and possible Section 106 funding. | 05/03/19 | 9 | 701 |
| Schools Forum membership | | | |
| 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 |