

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
1st October 2019

Directorate of Children, Learning and Skills

2020-21 Schools' Block
proposed 0.5% transfer to High Needs Block

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To brief Forum on the proposal to consult with all schools on the LA's request to 0.5% transfer from the Schools' Block to the High Needs Block for 2020-21, estimated to be around £0.7m. Further information will be issued within the consultation document.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Forum note that the LA will consult with all schools on the proposal to top-slice the Schools' Block, to run alongside the main budget setting consultation.
- 2.2 Once the consultation has concluded, a follow up paper will be submitted to the November Forum providing an update of the results and to request Forum consider the outcome and to vote on whether or not to approve the top-slice request.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 As part of the deficit recovery plan, previously presented to Forum, the ESFA has placed an expectation onto the LA to, at a minimum, balance any in-year pressures within any block, which for Slough and almost all other LAs nationally, sits within the High Needs Block. One efficient mechanism in which to contribute to this expectation is by seeking support from its schools. Whilst the top-slice will not eliminate the funding pressure entirely, it would improve the eventual outturn of the High Needs Block by around £0.7m.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not applicable

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Not applicable

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

6.1 Monitoring Officer

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

6.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Finance and Resources

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

6.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 To be confirmed

Contact for further information

Domenico Barani

Group Accountant - Children and Schools

Domenico.barani@slough.gov.uk