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Rutland County Council

Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP
Telephone 01572 722577 Facsimile 01572 758307 DX28340 Oakham

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A meeting of the **SCHOOLS' FORUM** will be held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP on **Thursday, 12th January, 2017** commencing at 4.00pm when it is hoped you will be able to attend.

Yours faithfully

Helen Briggs
Chief Executive

Recording of Council Meetings: Any member of the public may film, audio-record, take photographs and use social media to report the proceedings of any meeting that is open to the public. A protocol on this facility is available at www.rutland.gov.uk/haveyoursay

A G E N D A

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1) MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Schools' Forum held on 22 September 2016.
(Pages 3 - 6)

2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Regulations, Members are invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have and the nature of those interests in respect of items on this Agenda and/or indicate if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

3) PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

To receive any petitions, deputations and questions received from Members of the Public in accordance with the provisions of Procedure Rule 217.

The total time allowed for this item shall be 30 minutes. Petitions, declarations and questions shall be dealt with in the order in which they are received. Questions may also be submitted at short notice by giving a written copy to the Committee Administrator 15 minutes before the start of the meeting.

The total time allowed for questions at short notice is 15 minutes out of the total time of 30 minutes. Any petitions, deputations and questions that have been submitted with prior formal notice will take precedence over questions submitted at short notice. Any questions that are not considered within the time limit shall receive a written response after the meeting and be the subject of a report to the next meeting.

4) BUDGET UPDATE

To receive and consider paper Schools Budget 2016/17 Update & Appendix.
(Pages 7 - 10)

5) DSG OVERSPEND ON THE HIGH NEEDS BLOCK AND EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE

To receive and consider paper Schools Funding for 2017/18.
(Pages 11 - 14)

6) ANY URGENT BUSINESS

7) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 30 March 2017, 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm in the Council Chamber, RCC, Catmose.

Proposed Agenda Items:

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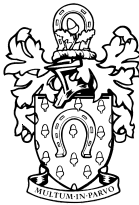
DISTRIBUTION

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOLS' FORUM:

Mrs J Turner (Chairman)	
Mrs S Milner (Vice-Chair)	
Mrs A Rawlins	Mr B Gale
Mr B Shore	Mr C Smith
Mr J Woodhead	Mrs M Darlington
Mr R Gooding	Ms S Hearth
Mr S Cox	Mr S Williams
Mr D Wilby	

OFFICERS:

Dr T O'Neill	Ms G Curtis
Mrs H Fardell	Ms D Greaves



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Minutes of the **MEETING of the SCHOOLS' FORUM** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Thursday, 22nd September, 2016 at 4.00 pm

PRESENT:

Mrs J Turner (Chair)	
Mr B Gale	Ms S Hearth
Mrs S Milner	Mr J Woodhead
Mrs M Darlington	Mr S Cox
Mr S Williams	Mr C Smith

APOLOGIES:

Mr R Shore	Dr T O'Neill
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OFFICERS PRESENT:

Mr M Fowler	Head of Service Learning & Skills
Ms D Greaves	Services for People Accountant
Mr L Dabin-Williams	Services for People Accountant
Mrs H Fardell (Clerk)	Corporate Support

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr D Wilby	Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning
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1 MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Schools' Forum held on 9 June 2016, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Item 6 – Mr Fowler advised the Forum that the Council had successfully recruited to the SEN Officer post and Claire McArthur would be taking up this appointment from 3 October 2016.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions were received from members of the public.

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Mrs S Milner joined the meeting at 4.10pm

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4 FUNDING UPDATE

Schools' Forum **NOTED** the content of the Schools Budget 2016/17 Update & Appendix 1 Forecast outturn 2016/17 paper.

5 HIGH NEEDS BUDGET 2016-2017

Mr Fowler advised Schools' Forum that it is likely there will be a SEND inspection in the near future. An internal review of SEND services has been started to identify strengths, weaknesses and initiate strategic planning for the future. An Inclusion Working Group has been established which includes a number of Head Teachers and this Group has already started to meet.

Ms Greaves presented the paper High Needs Funding, which details how the budget is set and that for 2016/17 there is a forecast overspend of £114.1k. Schools' Forum were advised that the Council no longer retains a contingency fund from DSG to cover any overspend. Schools' Forum were asked to consider the options for funding the overspend given in the paper.

During discussion the following was noted:

- It is very early in the academic year and the forecasted overspend may not materialise or be as great as currently anticipated.
- What is best for the individual student must be of paramount importance.
- Parental choice of an in or out of county placement has an impact on costs.
- Whilst numbers of students with additional needs fluctuates each year, schools have to retain experienced staff.
- Unlike previously, it will not be possible to move funds from Schools or Early Years Blocks to cover High Needs expenditure.
- The Council should consider collaboration with neighbouring authorities to deliver services.

Schools' Forum **AGREED** any overspend would be recouped from the 2017/18 schools block allocation as per the agreed funding formula. Ms Greaves advised that it would be possible to advise each school in January/February 2017 of the anticipated amount they would be liable for.

6 GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS AND CONSULTATION ON EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2017-18

Mr Fowler presented the paper Changes to Funding Formula for 2017/18. Schools' Forum **NOTED** the contents and discussed. The following points were made:

- Rutland will be disadvantaged if the Early Years National Funding Formula as currently being consulted on goes ahead. Closing dates for responses to the consultation is 22 September 2016.
- Mrs Darlington advised the Forum that she had spoken with several nursery care providers recently and it was felt that this will negatively impact most nurseries. The minimum wage and introduction of changes to pensions in the future are also a concern.
- Free child care provision is due to rise from 15 hours per week per child to 30 hours.

- Nursery providers may struggle to recruit and retain suitably qualified staff if salaries are restricted.
- The Local Authority has a duty to ensure there are sufficient childcare places but this will be increasingly difficult if private nursery providers withdraw.
- Currently, Rutland has a good reputation for its provision of early years care. There is good capacity generally, places are accessible, but there is an awareness of pressure points such as holiday childcare.

7 COLLABORATIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET UPDATE

Mr Fowler advised the Forum that all schools have been graded red, amber or green in terms of requiring improvement. Currently, arrangements are in place for two schools graded red (requiring substantial improvement) that is drawing on the £50k previously set aside for this purpose.

8 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

None received.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 12 January 2017 at 4.00 pm at RCC, in the Council Chamber.

The following additional meeting dates were agreed for 2017:

Thursday 30 March 2017

Thursday 8 June 2017

Thursday 21 September 2017

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.10 pm.

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SCHOOLS' FORUM MEETING

12th January 2017

Schools Budget 2016/17 Update

1. Introduction

The purpose of schools forums is to advise local authorities on the operation of the local Schools Budget and its distribution among schools and other bodies. This paper and its appendix updates the Forum on the projected outturn for the Schools Budget for 2016/17.

2. Attachments

The following items form the appendices to this paper.

- Appendix 1 – Forecast outturn for 2016/17

3. Points to Note in the Budget Forecast

3.1 The Grant income has been adjusted to reflect the recoupment of £36k of early years funding received in 2015/16. This is due to the January 2016 census data showing fewer 3&4 year olds than previously anticipated resulting in a reduction in funding allocation as notified by the Department for Education (DfE).

3.2 The forecast does include the under spend carry forward from 2015/16 of £325k, as Schools Forum has already approved the use of this funding for School Improvement (£50k) and allocation to schools (£275k).

3.3 The Schools Block:

The schools block is showing a more or less breakeven position. To date, no schools have converted to academy during this financial year.

3.4 The High Needs Block:

As can be seen from the attached appendix, the High Needs budget is showing a forecast overspend of £204.8k for the financial year. This is a predicted increase in overspend to that reported at Q2 of £90.7k. The Schools' Forum have already agreed that any overspend at year end will be recouped from next years budget.

3.5 The Early Years Block:

The Early Years Block is currently forecasting an overspend of £35k for the financial year. This is due to increased numbers of 2, 3 & 4 year olds. If these increases are reflected in the January 2017 census data, then the funding should be adjusted to reflect the increase.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the forecast for 2016/17 Dedicated Schools Grant.

Dawn Greaves

Finance Manager – Accounting 30th December 2016

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Functional Quarterly Reporting

Function	Schools - Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)
Lead Officer	Gill Curtis
Description	The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is split into 3 notional blocks: (a) Schools Block - allocations to individual schools based on funding formula approved by Schools Forum; Admissions service; and, nationally agreed school licences (b) High Needs Block - to fund additional support for pupils with high needs in schools, further education (FE) and alternative provision (AP) sector (c) Early Years Block - to fund early years settings for provision of places for 2,3 and 4 year olds.

Cost Centre		Outturn 2015/16	Budget 2016/17	Revised Budget	Q1 Forecast	Q2 Forecast	Q3 Forecast	Q2 Variance to budget
School Allocations	5003	4,657,498	3,358,100	3,686,700	3,687,000	3,687,000	3,687,000	300
Nationally Agreed School Licences	5007	27,872	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	0
School Improvement	5008	0	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	0
School Recharges	5205	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pupil Premium	5245	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pupil Premium Plus	5246	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Admissions Service	5379	57,341	65,000	65,000	59,400	57,700	65,000	0
Schools Block totals		4,742,712	3,452,100	3,830,700	3,825,400	3,823,700	3,831,000	300
SEN	5300 &	2,826,825	3,104,300	3,104,300	3,532,100	3,207,800	3,296,400	192,100
SEN Staff Recharge	5128	197,200	197,200	197,200	197,200	197,200	187,000	(10,200)
Education Otherwise	5314	110,954	90,000	90,000	90,600	95,000	104,000	14,000
Special Needs Teaching	5348	61,369	65,600	65,600	87,600	83,600	74,500	8,900
Early Years Inclusion	5399	30,104	48,900	48,900	48,900	36,500	48,900	0

High Needs Block totals		3,226,451	3,506,000	3,506,000	3,956,400	3,620,100	3,710,800	204,800
Education for under 5's	5301	65,826	74,400	74,400	65,300	65,000	59,900	(14,500)
3 & 4 Year Old Funding	5308	1,212,824	1,351,500	1,351,500	1,351,500	1,351,500	1,383,600	32,100
Early Years Foundation Stage	5368	27,573	30,100	30,100	30,700	28,300	28,400	(1,700)
2 Year Old Funding	5290	156,159	102,000	102,000	102,000	102,000	121,100	19,100
Early Years Block totals		1,462,383	1,558,000	1,558,000	1,549,500	1,546,800	1,593,000	35,000
Dedicated Schools Grant Income	5332	(9,205,000)	(8,516,100)	(8,569,700)	(8,569,700)	(8,569,700)	(8,533,000)	36,700
Use of carry forward DSG Grant (Earmarked)	n/a	0	0	(325,000)	(325,000)	(325,000)	(325,000)	0
Funding line		(9,205,000)	(8,516,100)	(8,894,700)	(8,894,700)	(8,894,700)	(8,858,000)	36,700
Total Function		226,546	0	0	436,600	95,900	276,800	276,800

Overall Functional Lead Comment

The largest variances arise from the (demand-led) SEN cases in the High Needs Block resulting in a forecast overspend. Two expensive individual placements were effected in the first quarter of this year. The residential element has been reallocated outside this function, hence the reduction in forecast overspend since Qu1. The increased post 16 and post 18 take-up (with EHC plans now extended to age 25) explains the variance in the costs of special needs teaching, line 5348. The Schools' Forum have agreed that any High Needs overspend will be recouped from next year's schools' budget. The variance in early years block works in two, contrasting ways. In line 5332 the loss of funding arises from a recoupment from RCC this year as numbers of children taking places were lower than funding allowed for in the previous year 2015/16. In contrast, the overspend in 5308 and 5290 arise because more children took up places this year than allowed for. These anomalies occur because funding is allocated on the basis of the previous year's census. The funding gap will thus be addressed once the census in January 2017 is complete.



SCHOOLS' FORUM MEETING

12th January 2017

School Funding for 2017/18

1. Introduction

- 1.1 During 2016/17, the Department for Education (DfE) has been consulting with organisations with regards to proposed changes to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) including how it is allocated to local authorities and then distributed to schools and early years providers. This paper sets out the changes made by the DfE for 2017/18.
- 1.2 The DSG is currently allocated to local authorities in three blocks: Schools; High Needs; and, Early Years with local authorities being able to transfer funds between blocks as required. For example, in 2016/17 Rutland has transferred £168,000 from the schools block to the early years block to allow for an increase in hourly rate to £4.60 for early years providers.
- 1.3 For 2017/18, the funding for the Early Years Block has been ringfenced and cannot be altered. The transfer of funding between High Needs and Schools blocks can still occur for 2017/18. However, this is likely to be the last year that funding can be transferred between these two blocks. The second stage consultation has commenced and within this documentation, it is indicated that a further baselining exercise will take place once the 2017/18 budgets have been set and these new baselines will be used when considering the long term funding available for both High Needs and Schools. Therefore, any decision taken to transfer funds will impact on funding in future years.

2. Schools and High Needs Funding

- 2.1 The funding allocation for the High Needs block for 2017/18 is £3.8211m. However, the below table indicates the amount of funding anticipated to be required to fund existing High Needs placements:

	Budget £'000	No. Of Pupils (FTE)	Comment
Mainstream settings	323.0	62.97	Payment to RCC and out of county schools for pupils with statement / EHC in a main school setting
DSP Units	833.7	29.00	£10k place funding payable even if vacant on 52.5 places.
Independent Special	1,813.1	32.33	Payments to special schools outside of local authority control – only one of which is in county
Non Maintained Special	72.3	2.00	Payments to out of county non maintained special schools
Other LA's Special	389.6	33.33	Out of county
Post 16 Students	235.8	24.37	Payments to colleges for post 16 placements – In and out of county

Direct Payment	19.5	1.00	Payment to Parent of child
DSG Recharge	197.2		Contribution towards staff costs in supporting schools with SEN pupils
Education Otherwise	110.0		To support pupils permanently excluded from schools
Early Years Inclusion	45.0		To support early years settings with pupils with learning difficulties
Special Needs Teaching	85.0		To support pupils with specialist support eg hearing, visually impaired etc
Contingency	96.9		For new pupils not yet identified as requiring support
	4,221.1	185.00	

2.2 The above table indicates that there is a shortfall in funding of £400k which will need to come from the schools block unless changes can be implemented to reduce costs. For example, the High Needs currently funds 52.5 places at £10k per place in 3 settings. However currently it is anticipated that only 29 of those places will actually be filled during 2017/18. In essence, £235k is being committed with no pupils actually receiving any benefit of that additional funding.

2.3 The Council therefore has two options, either the number of places at these units needs to be decreased thereby reducing the overall need for funding from the schools block or the take up of places at these units needs to be increased by reducing the number of external placements thereby reducing the overall budget requirement.

2.4 The funding available for allocation to schools is dependent on the decisions taken around High Needs funding. However, the current MFG for schools will be retained so that no school can face a funding reduction of more than 1.5% per pupil.

2.5 The allowable factors within the 2017/18 funding formula remain the same as the previous year except for the post-16 factor (not used by Rutland) which has been removed. It should be noted that due to changes in pupil numbers and changes to data sets, there will be a requirement to change the unit costs of some of the factors to ensure that the overall formula remains affordable.

3. ESG Transferred to the DSG

3.1 The schools block allocation includes the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG) at the rate of £15 per pupil. The total number of pupils as recorded on the October census is 5,273 giving a total available fund of £79k. It is proposed that £75k is retained centrally to fund the statutory and regulatory duties that the authority has for all pupils.

4. Early Years

4.1 Based on the information supplied by the DfE the amount of funding that the council will receive, the amount we can hold centrally and the amount we will be able to pay our early years settings is as follows:

	Current 2016/17 Budgets	Proposed 2017/18 allocations	Proposed 2018/19 allocations
Hourly rate to LA	£4.98	£4.73	£4.48
3&4 year olds (PTE)	508.9	508.9	508.9
Total budget	£1,445,000	£1,371,955	1,299,442
Allocated to providers	£1,340,500	£1,275,918	£1,234,470
Maximum held centrally	£104,500	£96,037	£64,972
Hourly rate to providers	£4.60	£4.40	£4.25

Dawn Greaves
Finance Manager - Accounting
30th December 2016.

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