



SCHOOLS' FORUM MEETING

22nd September 2016

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 budget has been adjusted to reflect the increase in allocation as notified by the Department for Education (DfE) as follows:

- An allocation of £53.6k return of recoupment funding to cover payments to Edith Weston for the period April to August.

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 slight underspend of £7k on the Admissions service. 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 £114.1k for the financial year. Since setting the budget, there have been 2 high cost placements that were unknown at the time. The forecast also includes estimated additional cost on post 16 of £66k which has not yet been finalised as the Council are still awaiting applications from the colleges. A separate paper outlining the issues and options for dealing with forecast overspend is to be considered.

3.5 The Early Years Block:

The Early Years Block is currently forecasting an underspend £11k for the financial year. This is due to a slight underspend on the staffing budget as a result of reduced costs.

4. Recommendations

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

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