

Agenda Item No.8(a) – Motion from Councillor Lucy Nethsingha

Amendment proposed by Councillor Simon Bywater

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough

This Council notes:

- That the recent school shut down is likely to have had a particularly bad impact on the education of children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- That there is expected to be a deficit of up to £28m million in the high needs block for Cambridgeshire at the end of the financial year and this remains an unfunded issue.
- That meetings with government **have secured significant extra funding, however it is insufficient in Cambridgeshire** ~~have failed to provide any additional funding to meet an increasing~~ this funding gap.
- That Cambridgeshire's schools funding remains low, particularly for the many secondary schools in Cambridgeshire who have sixth forms as part of the school, as was indicated by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) report on school funding published 18th September.
- That in the absence of government funding the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) deficit will **either continue to increase until the Government indicates how this deficit will be met, which is the current situation, or the Government mandates that the deficit is not allowed to increase. Should that change in position be the case, then the deficit would** have to be met by reducing the support available to schools and children with SEND in current cohorts, who are already suffering from a disrupted education as a result of the pandemic.

This Council therefore asks that:

- The Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, to request that he look again at the funding for Special Educational Needs and Disability, and in particular at the impact for children currently in education for those councils carrying large deficits, and find alternative funding, so that the costs of past care do not have to be met by those currently in need of support in education.
- A letter be sent to ~~parents of SEND children in Cambridgeshire drawing the issue to their attention, and asking for their support in bringing this matter to the attention of the government and~~ **Cambridgeshire MPs asking for their support.**