

SCHOOLS FORUM MINUTES ACTION LOG

The Action Log updated as at 3rd July 2019 captures the actions from meetings of the Cambridgeshire Schools Forum requiring a response / or the response undertaken and completed since the last Action Log update.

MINUTES 14TH DECEMBER 2018

85.	CAMBRIDGESHIRE 2019/20 SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA	Head of Integrated Finance Services Jon Lee	Suggested that it would be useful to have data on the carryforwards for schools in neighbouring authorities, as well as information on why the money had been put aside. Approaching other schools to share such information would also serve to open dialogue on the issue. Action: Head of Integrated Finance Services.	Information is included in the Schools Balances Report on the agenda. (see item7)	ACTION COMPLETED
87.	HIGH NEEDS BLOCK FUNDING – THE CHALLENGES FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Service Director of Education Jon Lewis	Work on looking at what efficiencies could be found and demand for high need services reduced would be undertaken by the Schools Forum Working Group. It was suggested that it would be helpful to see the alternatives devised by other authorities.	This was ongoing work and would be the subject of reports back to Forum. There will be a discussion briefing following the close of the formal Forum meeting.	ACTION ONGOING.

JANUARY FORUM MEETING					
95.	2019-20 SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA Growth Fund Query	Martin Wade	Clarification was sought over the difference in funding and how much was spent, noting that the Growth Fund requirement from the authority was £5m, with Government giving only £3.3m Forum.	A report is included on the current agenda.	ACTION ONGOING
97.	AGENDA PLAN	Sam Surtees	The lead officer indicated that she would seek to obtain and provide information on the number of cases that went to tribunals in discussion with colleagues in Special Education Needs (SEN) services.	This information was provided in an e-mail to the Forum dated 21 st June 2019 stating that of 1150 new EHCP's issued, 12 cases were taken to tribunal, which equates to 1.04%.	ACTION COMPLETED
MINUTES 17th MAY 2019					
110.	Report on 1st April Workshop	Service Director of Education Jon Lewis	Forum in discussion considered who would be able to pursue the objectives laid out in section 3.1 of the report, given that there was not a large pool of people specialised in the sufficient knowledge of schools and local government that would be able to effectively carry out the roles proposed. It was suggested that the requirements needed a full time commitment for six months It was agreed that the Service Director of Education would produce the exact job requirements and details.	An oral update to be provided.	

112.	MAINTAINED SCHOOLS & DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT FINANCIAL HEALTH	The Head of Integrated Finance Services Jon Lee	<p>Forum noted that there were a number of schools spending their carry-forward and it was suggested that it would be useful to see predicted levels of funding for the next year in order to make informed decisions on spending. The Head of Integrated Finance Services agreed that such information would be presented at the Forum meeting on 12th July.</p>	<p>A report is included on the agenda. (see item 7)</p>	
	b) Reasons for Excessive Balances	The Head of Integrated Finance Services Jon Lee	<p>Forum requested information about why some schools appeared to have excessive balances. The Head of Integrated Finance Services agreed to bring the information to the July Forum meeting.</p>	<p>A report is included on the agenda. (see Item 7)</p>	
	c) Academies Reserves	The Head of Integrated Finance Services Jon Lee	<p>Agreed that in order to obtain extra funding, it was necessary for all schools, including academies, to be forthcoming about reserves. Representatives from Academy Trusts agreed to share their balances and a request made to collate the information.</p>	<p>As the information would not be available until late August, it would be reported to the October Forum meeting</p>	ACTION ONGOING