CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM



Wednesday, 16 December 2020

<u>10:00</u>

Democratic and Members' Services Fiona McMillan Monitoring Officer

> Shire Hall Castle Hill Cambridge CB3 0AP

COVID-19

During the Covid-19 pandemic Council and Committee meetings will be held virtually for Committee members and for members of the public who wish to participate. These meetings will held via Zoom and Microsoft Teams (for confidential or exempt items). For more information please contact the clerk for the meeting (details provided below).

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

1.	Apologies for absence and declarations of interest	
	Guidance on declaring interests is available at http://tinyurl.com/ccc-conduct-code	
2.	Minutes Schools Forum 6th November 2020	3 - 54
3.	Minutes Action Log at December 2020	55 - 60
4.	Update on Schools Forum Membership	61 - 68
5.	Schools Funding Update Report - December 2020	69 - 80
6.	Schools Forum Agenda Plan Update December 2020	81 - 82

The Cambridgeshire Schools Forum comprises the following members:

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements please contact

Simon Bainbridge Adrian Ball Liz Bassett Christopher Bennett Susannah Connell Jonathan Culpin Joanne Hardwick Sasha Howard Ryan Kelsall John King Jeremy Lloyd Leah Miller Claire Palmer Deborah Parfitt Patsy Peres Richard Spencer Paul Stratford and Guy Underwood

Clerk Name:	Rob Sanderson
Clerk Telephone:	01223 699181
Clerk Email:	Rob.Sanderson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Agenda Item: 2

SCHOOLS FORUM: MINUTES

Date: Friday 6 November 2020

Time: 10.00am - 11.45am

Venue: Virtual meeting in line with the Schools Forums (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 making provisions to enable schools forums to meet remotely while they are unable to meet physically in a room during the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID19)

Present:

Maintained Primary Heads - Liz Bassett, Tony Davies (substitute for Sasha Howard) and Guy Underwood

Academy Primary - Susannah Connell

Other Academy Sector Appointments - Adrian Ball, Christopher Bennet , Jonathan Culpin (Chairman) , Ryan Kellsall, John King , Patsy Peres and Richard Spencer

Maintained Pupil Referral Unit – Leah Miller

Early Years Reference Group - Deborah Parfitt

Post 16 Further Education - Jeremy Lloyd

Maintained Governor - Paul Stratford (Vice-Chairman)

Maintained Nursery School - Claire Palmer

Maintained Special School - Joanne Hardwick

Academy Special School - Simon Bainbridge

Cambridgeshire County Council - Councillor Simon Bywater, Councillor Peter Downes and Councillor Simone Taylor

Observers - Jon Duveen (Teachers Unions), Julie Cornwall,) and Andrew Read (Diocese of East Anglia)

Officers - J Lewis, Service Director Education, T Oviatt-Ham – Democratic Services Officer, R Sanderson, Democratic Services Officer and Clerk to Forum and M Wade, Strategic Finance Business Partner. Apologies: Sasha Howard (Maintained Primary Head)

Joe Mc-Crossan (Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

Quorum on current voting membership: 8

162. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies received from Sasha Howard substituted by Tony Davies and Joe Mc-Crossan.

The Chairman welcomed Leah Miller representing the maintained pupil referral unit to her first meeting and Simon Bainbridge who, although in the past had been a substitute for Kim Taylor, was now the representative for academy special schools.

The Chairman informed the meeting of the resignation of the former Chairman Philip Hodgson, who had resigned from the Forum for personal reasons. On behalf of the Forum he wished him well for the future and asked Democratic Services to write on behalf of the Forum to express their deep gratitude for his years of service that he had provided to both Forum and to the children of the County in his tireless efforts, along with the previous Vice Chairman, the late Dr Alan Rodger, in lobbying for a better grant settlement for Cambridgeshire.

No declarations of interest were made.

163. Schools Forum Minutes - 17th July 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2020 were approved as a correct record.

164. Minutes Action Log October 2020

The Forum noted the Minute Action Log with the following updates:

- Minute 157: Update on High Needs Recovery Plan. The Service Director, Education explained this had moved on since the last meeting as he had now met with MPs. The suggestion was that rather than just Forum writing to Government requesting additional funding, a more effective course of action would be that a joint letter of representation should be sent.
- Minute 160: Review of Membership and Proportionality need for more ethnic diversity in the Forum membership. The Service Director, Education stated that he would undertake a review of the Forum membership ahead of the next meeting and that he would ask that ethnicity and diversity be considered throughout the process.

165. Schools Funding Update Covering Report - November 2020

The Forum received a report providing them with an update on the latest national funding announcements and local funding formula proposals for 2021/22.

The Service Director, Education and the Strategic Finance Business Partner gave a joint presentation (attached at appendix 1 of the minutes) that provided information to support the 2021/22 Schools budget setting process and covered the following areas:

- 21/22 School Funding Arrangements
- High Needs Block
- Illustrative Budget Modelling
- Consultation Process & Results
- Centrally Retained Funding
- Growth Funding / New Schools
- Next Steps

2021/22 School Funding Arrangements

The Service Director, Education explained that Cambridgeshire had received the third lowest increase nationally for the High Needs Block. He clarified that a value for money report for Special Education Needs had just been released by Government which highlighted that there was insufficient funding. He informed the forum that there was an ongoing review of teams and structures and that a report on the saving would be brought to the next meeting of the forum.

Individual members raised the following points in relation to the national funding announcement outlined in the presentation:

- sought clarity on how many primary schools received sparsity funding.
 The Strategic Finance Business Partner explained that currently 17 of the 57 Primary Schools under 150 pupils met the criteria for sparsity funding.
- queried if there was a reason why Cambridgeshire was lower down the list on the National Funding Formula (ranked 149). The Service Director, Education explained that Cambridgeshire did not hit the factors that increased the funding ranking and commented that growth was not properly represented in the formula.

Consultation Process and Responses

The Strategic Finance Business Partner clarified that the consultation process had taken place earlier this year and that there had been over 200 attendees at virtual consultation events with a total of 80 submissions received. He drew the forums attention to the detailed consultation responses in appendix two of the report. He highlighted that further information would be circulated to maintained schools on the Risk Protection Arrangements.

Individual members raised the following points in relation to the consultation process and responses outlined in the presentation:

- Questioned how many schools the 80 responses represented and what percentage this was of all of the schools in Cambridgeshire. The Strategic Finance Business partner explained that some of the responses were from Academy Trusts so he would need to go back and review the figures and update Forum after the meeting.
 (ACTION) After removing duplicates and allowing for the total number of schools represented by multi-academy trusts approximately 106 different schools were represented. The consultation was sent to 255 separate schools across Primary, Secondary and Special, so this figure equated to approximately 42%.
- Sought clarity on what the impact would be if there was no transfer and whether there would be a need to reduce Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) if there was a transfer. The Service Director, Education explained that if the transfer did not take place then it would make little impact on budgets. He stated that currently there was £28 million borrowing a year and this position could not be sustained going forwards. He expressed his concern that the government could deduct £28 million from the schools budget in the future.
- Queried whether the proportion and overall level of out of county provision for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) had changed. The Service Director, Education clarified that the provision had stayed the same but there had been an increase in need. He explained that he would provide data on this at the next meeting. (ACTION)
- Asked if there had been any contact with the Department for Education over the last few months regarding Special Educational Needs (SEN) funding. The Service Director, Education explained that he had met with the Right honourable Nick Gibb MP who had promised support and he had met with the Department of Education twice during the pandemic who had stated that the local authority's activity in this area was great, but that there had been nothing forthcoming in relation to funding. He stated that he had now written to the Department for Education four times regarding cash flow and that because of COVID they had stated that they had been unable to deal with the requests. He explained that there was also a new template for recording deficits and that most local authorities were recording a deficit. He highlighted surveys conducted by F40 and the Society of County Treasurers on High Needs Deficits. The Strategic Finance Business Partner explained that the deficits template focused on looking back over previous years and that there was a disconnect in the process. The Service Director, Education stated that he would organise another meeting with Rt. Hon Nick Gibb MP and that it may be appropriate for Jon Culpin to attend with Councillor Bywater. (ACTION)
- Questioned whether there would be potential to reduce top up funding and whether officers were mapping different scenarios. The Strategic

Finance Business Partner stated that a transfer would have a disproportional impact on smaller primary schools. The Service Director, Education stated that officers were mindful of the potential disproportional impact and that there was a need to review the scenarios using the new census data to ensure that any disproportional impact was mitigated.

- Requested an up to date list of carry forwards of budget from schools. The Director, Education stated that when accounts were published in January and the list would be updated. He highlighted that local authorities were not allowed to claw any balances back. A forum member stated that Academy Trusts were not allowed to put a deficit budget out and would typically have 10% of their total budget as reserves as they needed to be run in a financially sustainable manner. A Forum member highlighted that a high proportion of surpluses were ring-fenced for different reasons and this highlighted the underfunding. The Service Director, Education stated that he would circulate and updated the list in the New Year. (ACTION)
- Sought further detailed information on the actions the local authority was taking to reduce deficits as this would be important for forum members to understand in terms of reduced support to schools, when making a decision on whether to make a transfer. The Service Director, Education clarified that he would share further detail on the consultation on services at the next meeting. (ACTION)
- requested further detail on what a 10% reduction in Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) funding might look like. The Service Director, Education stated that the Enhanced Resource Base review had gone on for a long time and that the contract was out of date. He explained that there were representatives from the Forum working with officers on the review in order to save money and improve the quality of provision. The Service Director, Education explained that he would update the Forum on the progress of the review and look to reform some of the groups that had been set up.(ACTION)
- sought further clarity on the challenges and impacts of the sparsity criteria. The Service Director, Education explained that he would be setting up a meeting with the schools that this applied to, to undertake a review. (ACTION) The Chairman stated that it was not a question of convincing people, but more of a question if anyone could do anything about the funding situation, even if they agreed with

Concluding the debate the Service Director, Education explained that they would be feeding back on the outcome of this meeting to the Children and Young People's Committee next week and that officers would continue to develop the formula and share the information with forum. He stated that officers had not yet formed a view on whether the Committee should override

the forums decision and go to the Secretary of State and that officers needed to reflect on the alternatives.

De-Delegations

The Maintained Primary Heads explained that they had discussed and agreed the de-delegations collectively.

Central Schools Services Block

Individual members raised the following points in relation to the Central Schools Services Block outlined in the presentation:

- Queried what the contribution to children's services covered. The Service Director, Education explained that this covered the additional Educational Psychologists support and youth services. He clarified that he had produced a list of what the contribution covered last year and he would circulate this again for clarification. (ACTION)
- Questioned whether Educational Psychologists contribution should stay the same. The Director, Education stated the number of Educational Psychologists would stay the same with this reduction and that funding was slowly being replaced with core council funding.
- Sought clarity on what was happening with the provision of Early Intervention Family Workers. The Service Director, Education explained that this had only become part of his service recently and he intended to bring a report to Forum on how the resources would be dedicated going forward. (ACTION)
- Discussed broad-band costs. The Service Director, Education explained that there had been a couple of challenges on elements of broadband agreement in relation to filtering and officers were working to resolve any issues.

Growth Fund and New School Funding

Individual members raised the following points in relation to the Growth Fund and New Schools Funding outlined in the presentation:

 Questioned whether proposals were being brought forward from the Department for Education The Service Director, Education reiterated that repeated representations had been made and that the impact on growth would be highlighted again in the MP letter. He stated that the wave 12 bid of a new school in Soham was being taken to the next meeting of the Children and Young's People's Committee as officers did not believe there was a basic need for a new school at this time. • Stated that a clear approach was needed for funding free schools. A forum member stated that the local authority should not underwrite pupil numbers were it was agreed that there was no basic need.

It was resolved:

2021/22 School Funding Arrangements

1. to note and comment on the national funding announcements.

Consultation Process and Responses

2. to comment on the responses received to the consultation and the proposed Local Authority (LA) approach.

Schools Block and High Needs Block

3. Not to approve a block transfer between the Schools Block and the High Needs Block

De-Delegations

- 5. to approve the continuation of de-delegations in respect of:
 - i) Contingency
 - ii) Free School Meals Eligibility
 - iii) Maternity
 - iv) Trade Union Facilities Time

Central Schools Services Block

- 6. to approve:
 - v) the reduction in Contribution to Children's Services from £1.5m to £1m for 2021/22.
 - vi) the continuation of the £733k to support early intervention family workers.
 - vii) the transfer of £1,085k from the Central Schools Service Block (CSSB) to the High Needs Block.
 - viii) the continued use of the retained duties funding within the CSSB to support ongoing functions.
 - ix) the continued retention of £10 per pupil from maintained schools for services specifically provided to maintained schools.
- 7. to comment on the proposal for Schools to be charged for 40% of the current Broadband costs following the further reduction in funding.

Growth Fund and New School Funding

8. to approve:

- x) the continuation of the current growth fund criteria and funding rates for 2021/22
- xi) the continuation of the centrally retained growth fund to £2m.
- xii) the variation to pupil numbers for new schools.
- xiii) the underwriting of pupil numbers for new schools in the future subject to changes in national policy

166. Schools Forum Agenda Plan Update October 2020

The Forum noted the following reports on the agenda for the next Forum meeting on 16 December:

- Current membership and appointment 4 vacancies diversity
- School funding updates all requests coming forward
- High Needs Recovery Plan

It was resolved to:

note the agenda plan.

Date of Next Meeting

The Cambridgeshire Schools Forum will meet next on Wednesday 16 December 2020 at 10am.

Chairman



2021/22 Schools Budgets and Dedicated Schools Grant Funding

Schools Forum – 6th November 2020



Page 11 of 82

Introduction



The purpose of todays presentation is to share with Schools Forum the latest position on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding in relation to the 2021/22 budget setting round:

- 1. 21/22 School Funding Arrangements
- 2. High Needs Block
- 3. Illustrative Budget Modelling
- 4. Consultation Process & Results
- 5. Centrally Retained Funding
- 6. Growth Funding / New Schools
- 7. Next Steps

Slide #2

21-22 School Funding Arrangements

Schools Block

- Extra £4.8bn into Education nationally in 21/22 (second year of the funding settlement worth £14.4bn over 3 years – 22/23 original plan for an additional £7bn. Any spending review may change this allocation (even increase it).
- Funding from the teachers' pay grant (TPG) and the teachers' pension employer contribution grant (TPECG), including the supplementary fund, has been added to the formulae.
- Increased minimum per pupil levels (MPPL) of £4,180 for Primary and £5,415 for Secondary (includes uplifts to reflect the TPG/TPECG at a rate of £180 in primary and £265 in secondary)

Slide #3

Page 13 of 82



21-22 School Funding Arrangements Schools Block

- DfE published illustrative figures show a £30.6m increase for Cambridgeshire (excluding growth funding) compared to the amount received in 2020/21 – However this approximately £17.6m of this relates to the baselining of TPG/TPECG and as such the net increase is in the region of £13m / 3.4%.
- Final allocations will differ based on the October 2020 census information.
- The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) has been updated to the latest 2019 data which will have an impact on the distribution of deprivation funding.





21-22 School Funding Arrangements

Schools Block

- The sparsity factor has been increased at a national level, as a first step towards expanding the support the NFF provides for small and remote schools from 2022 to 2023.
- The DfE define a small school as having less than 21.4 pupils per year group in primary and less than 120 per year group in secondary.
- However the mandatory distance thresholds of 2 miles for primary and 3 miles for secondary (as the crow flies) excludes the majority of Cambridgeshire small schools.
- As a result the national changes will have a minimal impact other than for those which already qualify.

Slide #5



Schools Block

- Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) can be set between +0.5% and +2% increase per pupil; LA decision
- No national cap but LAs can still opt to use a local cap
- 0.5% limit on movements between funding blocks remains





21-22 School Funding Arrangements

Early Years Block

- No announcements as yet.
- Continuation of the maintained nursery school supplement until the summer of 2021

High Needs Block

- Extra £730m announced nationally
- Allocated through the High Needs funding formula with floors, protections and caps – minimum uplift 8% -Cambridgeshire to receive and extra £6.1m / 8% excluding TPG/TPECG (based on illustrative data)





Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

- Historic commitments reduced by a further 20% from last year resulting in a net CSSB reduction of £0.8m compared to last year.
- This will impact on the budgets currently funded through this route. i.e. Broadband.



How do we compare?



Source: DfE 2021-22 NFF Summary	20/21 Rank	2020/21 Baseline Schools Block per Pupil	21/22 Rank	Illustrative 2021/22 Schools Block per Pupil
Tower Hamlets	1	£7,219	1	£7,376
Hackney	2	£7,136	2	£7,297
Peterborough	63	£5,044	65	£5,193
Bedford Borough	87	£4,928	86	£5,106
Norfolk	86	£4,942	89	£5,092
Hertfordshire	104	£4,862	110	£5,017
Worcestershire	116	£4,831	116	£4,999
Northamptonshire	113	£4,837	117	£4,998
Bath and North East Somerset	111	£4,844	118	£4,997
Suffolk	121	£4,823	120	£4,988
Essex	125	£4,811	127	£4,971
West Berkshire	127	£4,798	128	£4,970
Oxfordshire	129	£4,778	130	£4,933
Wiltshire	133	£4,767	132	£4,929
Central Bedfordshire	136	£4,754	136	£4,914
West Sussex	142	£4,729	139	£4,910
Hampshire	143	£4,727	142	£4,901
Cambridgeshire	141	£4,732	143	£4,900
South Gloucestershire	149	£4,637	149	£4,815

Slide #9

Page 19 of 82



Required Actions

 Schools Forum are asked to note and comment on the national funding announcements





- High Needs Block
- 2020/21 High Needs Block:

Source of Funding	£m
DfE Allocation	£75.41m
Transfer from Schools Block	£0m
Transfer from CSSB	£1.22m
Total	£76.63m

- Total estimated spend for 20/21 = £88.5m+
- Adjusted Deficit b/fwd from 19/20 = £16.62m
- Forecast Deficit to c/fwd to 21/22 = £28.5m+

Slide #11



- 2021/22 Illustrative High Needs Block = £82.5m
- Of which approximately £1m relates to TPG/TPECG.
- The majority of the budget (circa 70%) funds activities in schools and 14% funds out of county provision.
- Main pressures due to increasing numbers continue to be:
 - High Needs top-up budget
 - Out of School Tuition Budgets
 - Special Schools
 - High Needs Units
- Basic HNB funding not sufficient to meet current commitments.

High Needs Block – EHCPs





Slide #13

Page 23 of 82



- Alongside the continuing increase in EHCPs the complexity of need is also continuing to rise.
- Currently the average full year top-up is in the region of £8,170 per mainstream pupil with approximately 44% of pupils receiving a full year top-up equivalent of more than £10k.



Slide #14

Page 24 of 82



- A reduction in the funding to Behaviour and Improvement Partnerships (BAIPs) has already been actioned.
- Work is ongoing to review and reduce High Cost Placements.
- Reductions in Top-Up funding for mainstream schools will be <u>consulted upon</u> in the new year – likely 10% reduction from summer / autumn 2021.
- Other workstreams being developed by the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Recovery Board include:
 - Review of Out of School Tuition
 - Review of Enhance Resource Centres/Bases
 - SEND Service Review
 - Quality Assurance Framework
 - Performance Data
 - Demand Management
 - Invest to save options...

Slide #15



- The DSG conditions of grant to make it clear that any deficit must be carried forward to the schools budget in future years. The local authority may not fund any part of the overspend from its general resources, unless it applies for and receives permission from the Secretary of State to do so.
- The High Needs Block not only needs to be sustainable on an ongoing basis, but the overall DSG will also need to recover the cumulative deficit.



- Schools have been provided with <u>illustrative</u> funding allocations to show the potential impact of 3 different scenarios:
 - A) 0% Block Transfer 2% MFG
 - B) 0.5% Block Transfer 1.5% MFG
 - C) 1% Block Transfer 0.5% MFG
 - At each scenario the MFG and Cap have been adjusted to ensure overall affordability.



- Important points to note:
 - The <u>illustrative</u> figures use the revised NFF unit values and MPPL values for 2021-22.
 - The 2020-21 baseline has been adjusted to reflect an estimate of the levels of TPG and TPECG to be received by each school.
 - As with the pupil numbers and backing data used in the DfE school level information the illustrative amounts are based on the October 2019 census. Therefore the actual figures to be received in 2021-22 <u>will</u> differ, and in some cases will be significantly different due to changes in overall numbers and pupil characteristics.





- Important points to note:
 - Any school currently funded below the MPPL will as a minimum see an increase up to this level.
 - Conversely any school already funded above the MPPL will see a variable level of funding in 21/22 dependent on individual characteristics and overall affordability.
- Analysis undertaken by the Education Policy Institute notes that:
- "..the link between funding and pupil need is being weakened by a system of levelling up which directs a proportion of additional funding towards schools with historically lower levels of funding – these schools will typically (though by no means exclusively) be serving schools in more affluent areas. "

Slide #19



Likewise a report from the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) notes:

- Schools in disadvantaged areas of England will receive smaller funding increases than those in wealthier areas under the Government's new schools funding formula.
- The researchers added that the new national funding formula should ensure that the funding system responds to the geography of deprivation in the long term, however, schools in poorer areas will receive funding increases of 3-4 percentage points less than those in affluent areas up to 2021.
- The IFS warned that the short-term funding disparity will create "additional challenges" in responding to the COVID-19 crisis, with headteachers already having to find additional funds to cover the costs of reopening, and would widen educational inequalities and hamper the Government's "levelling up" plans.

Slide #20



Consultation Process

- The schools funding formula continues to be a local authority (LA) decision in 2021-22.
- As in prior years schools must be consulted on:
 - a) Any changes to the formula being proposed; and
 - b) Any transfer proposed from the Schools Block.
- The consultation periods are having to be shorter due to the timing of announcements (October rather than July) which the DfE acknowledge.





- A total of 80 submissions were received in response to the funding consultation which closed on Friday 23rd October.
- The following slides provide a summary of the results of the consultation.
- Appendix 2 provides further detail, including a full transcript of the narrative responses.





1. Which best describes the organisation you are representing in your consultation response?

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Individual maintained school	56.25%	45
2	Individual academy school	22.50%	18
3	Academy Trust or other (please specify):	21.25%	17

2. Which of the following best describes your position/role?

Slide #23

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Headteacher		62.50%	50
2	Governor		17.50%	14
3	CEO	I	1.25%	1
4	Finance staff		11.25%	9
5	Parent		0.00%	0
6	Other (please specify):		7.50%	6

- If representing an individual maintained school or academy:
 - Primary = 61 Secondary = 9 Special = 2

Page 33 of 82



5. Do you agree that the Cambridgeshire funding formula unit values for 2021-22 should be aligned with the national funding formula rates?

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	91.25%	73
2	No	1.25%	1
3	Not Sure	7.50%	6

- Comments included:
 - "Movement to the national funding formula should be made as soon as possible"
- Based on the responses received the LA recommendation will be to implement the NFF funding rates as set out in the consultation.





6. Do you support the transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support the increasing pressures within this area?

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	30.00%	24
2	No	62.50%	50
3	Not Sure	7.50%	6

• Comments included:

- "Historic underfunding of the High Needs block in Cambridgeshire should not be subsidised by a transfer from our historically underfunded mainstream schools"
- "Central government should be properly and effectively funding children with Higher Needs across this country"





 Of the 24 responses that did support a block transfer to the High Needs Block:

7. If "Yes", at what level do you think the transfer should be:						
		Response Percent	Response Total			
1	0.5% (£1.9m)	52.94%	18			
2	1.0% (£3.8m)	17.65%	6			
3	Other (please specify):	29.41%	10			

• The 10 "Other" answers were "0%" or "n/a"

Slide #26


8. If there are overall affordability issues due to growth, cost of protection or agreed block transfers do you support the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) being set at lower than the maximum allowable 2.0%?

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	41.25%	33
2	No	40.00%	32
3	Not Sure	18.75%	15

 Comments seemed to suggest be quite a lot of confusion in respect of the MFG with reference to growing schools, those with falling rolls or setting the MFG as low as possible to protect schools.

9. If "Yes", what is the minimum the MFG should be set at?							
		Response Percent	Response Total				
1	0.5%	23.81%	10				
2	1.0%	14.29%	6				
3	1.5%	16.67%	7				
4	Not Sure	23.81%	10				
5	Other % (please specify):	21.43%	9				

Slide #27

Page 37 of 82

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk



10. If there are overall affordability issues due to growth, cost of protection or agreed block transfers do you support the use of a funding cap?(note the funding cap restricts the amount of any funding gains of those schools above the level at which the funding cap is set)

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	52.50%	42
2	No	27.50%	22
3	Not Sure	20.00%	16

- A lot of comments referred to the fact that the use of a cap has an adverse impact on those schools already in receipt of more than the MPPL which tend to be those in more deprived areas and/or those with great levels of need.
- We recognise this, but due to the way in which the mandatory MPPL is applied and the overall limit on resources the options to balance overall are limited and do not allow a more equal distribution.
- Based on the responses received the LA recommendation will be to use a combination of the MFG and funding cap to balance within available resources.





11. Maintained schools are asked to show their support for the continuation of the following de-delegation arrangements:

11.1. Prin	nary Cont	ingency Scheme		esponse Percent	Response Total
1		Yes	8	81.6%	40
2		No		4.1%	2
3		Not Sure	1	14.3%	7
11.2. Free	School I	Meal Eligibility		sponse ercent	Response Total
1	Yes		8	39.8%	44
2	No		(0.0%	0
3	Not Sur	e	1	10.2%	5
11.4. Maternity Cover			esponse ercent	Response Total	
1		Yes	8	89.6%	43
2		No		0.0%	0
3		Not Sure	1	10.4%	5
11.5. Trac	11.5. Trade Union Facilities Time			sponse ercent	Response Total
1		Yes	7	73.5%	36
2	2	No		6.1%	3
3		Not Sure	2	20.4%	10

Slide #29

Page 39 of 82

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

De-delegation Amounts



• Apply to maintained primary schools only:

	Agreed 2020/21 Basis	Proposed 2021/22 Basis
Contingency	£2.10 per pupil	£2.10 per pupil
Free School Meals	£4.65 per FSM child	£4.65 per FSM child
Insurance*	£22.51 per pupil	£21.00 per pupil
Insurance (catch up)	£2.21 per pupil	£0 per pupil
Maternity	£5.00 per pupil	£5.00 per pupil
Trade Union Facilities Time	£1.10 per pupil	£1.10 per pupil

Please note: Final de-delegation amounts for 2021/22 will be updated on receipt of revised data from the ESFA and presented at the January meeting of Schools Forum. Although final amounts will change to reflect final pupil numbers and academy conversions the principles for de-delegation will remain as set out above.

Slide #30

Page 40 of 82

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk



- In respect of the questions in relation to Insurance and the Risk Protection Arrangements we intend to circulate additional information on the levels of cover provided to each scheme to maintained schools only.
- This will then allow schools to consider in more detail and make an informed decision about the appropriateness and value for money of each.
- A final decision can then be made by maintained school representatives at either the December of January meeting of Schools Forum.



Required Actions



- Schools Forum are asked to comment on the responses received to the consultation and the proposed LA approach.
- Schools Forum are asked to vote on the approval of a block transfer between the Schools Block and High Needs Block.
- If the transfer is approved, at what level should it be set:
 - 0.5% or
 - 1.0% (will require Secretary of State approval)



Required Actions cont..



- Maintained Primary representatives on Schools Forum are asked to approve the continuation of de-delegations in respect of:
 - 1) Contingency
 - 2) Free School Meals Eligibility
 - 3) Maternity
 - 4) Trade Union Facilities Time



Central Schools Services Block

 Continued reduction of CSSB funding based on DfE published illustrative figures. Historic Commitments reduced by 20% to £3.693m

Historic Commitments	2020/21 Budget £000	Proposed 2021/22 Budget £000
Contribution to Children's Services	£1,500	£1,000
Early Intervention Family Workers	£733	£733
Broadband Contract	£1,167	£875
Transfer to High Needs Block	£1,217	£1,085
Total	£4,617	£3,693
School Contribution to Broadband	£292	£584

Slide #34

Page 44 of 82

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire

County Council

Central Schools Services Block



 Broadband Contract - Proposed pricing based on approximately 40% of total costs being met by schools and the remaining 60% continuing to be subsidised in 2021/22:

Phase	Bandwidth	Cost 2020-21	Cost 2021-22
Primary	100	£1,050	£2,100
Secondary	1000	£1,650	£3,300

The base entitlement under Eastnet for Schools framework is 1000Mb for Secondary schools and 100Mb for Primary Schools. For the 2021-22 financial year, any schools considering upgrading beyond the base offer, for example a primary requiring 200Mb, will be charged the 40% of the 100Mb circuit, plus the full difference between a 100Mb and 200Mb circuit.

Slide #35

Page 45 of 82

Retained Duties Funding



- For 2021/22 it is proposed to:
 - Continue to apply the retained duties funding received as per of the CSSB to support ongoing functions.
 - Continue to retain £10 per pupil from maintained schools for services specifically provided to maintained schools.

Retained Duties Estimates	2021/22 £000
Estimated Retained Duties - Applies to all Schools*	£1,605
Estimated Education Functions - £10 per pupil - Maintained Only*	£292
Estimated Total Retained Funding	£1,897

*Final amounts will be dependent on October 2020 pupil numbers and academy conversions.

Slide #36

Required Actions



- Schools Forum are asked to approve:
 - 1) the reduction in Contribution to Children's Services from £1.5m to £1m for 2021/22.
 - 2) the continuation of the £733k to support early intervention family workers.
 - 3) the transfer of £1,085k from the Central Schools Service Block (CSSB) to the High Needs Block.
 - 4) the continued use of the retained duties funding within the CSSB to support ongoing functions.
 - 5) the continued retention of £10 per pupil from maintained schools for services specifically provided to maintained schools.
- Schools Forum are asked to comment on:
 - the proposal for Schools to be charged for 40% of the current Broadband costs following the further reduction in funding.



Page 47 of 82

Growth Funding



- No proposed changes to the Growth Fund methodology for 2021/22. (Full criteria can be seen at Appendix 3)
- The inclusion of Headteacher Representatives on the Growth Fund panel has added an additional level of challenge to the process.
- To date in 20/21 a total of £1.85m has been allocated across diseconomies funding, and growth funding for primary and secondary schools.



Growth Funding



Proposed 21/22 funding rates per form of entry (FE):

Phase	Academic Year	Financial Year (7/12ths)
Primary (1FE)	£54,000 + £4,000	£31,500 + £4,000
Secondary (1FE)	£65,000 + £4,000	£37,917 + £4,000



Page 49 of 82



Growth Funding



- Based on the latest available data and intelligence from the Place Planning Team, and allowing for changes in required Diseconomies funding the estimated centrally retained Growth Fund requirement for 2020/21 remains at £2m.
- The total cost of implicit growth will not be known until final pupil data is received from the ESFA in December, but we estimate it to be around £2m.
- A final reconciliation will be provided to Forum on receipt of the December information, but as in previous years the expectation is that a subsidy in the region of £1m from existing schools will be required to meet the cost of new and growing schools.





New School Funding

- There are no proposed changes to the funding for New Schools.
- Variations to pupil numbers are applied to new and growing schools whilst they fill to capacity.
- DfE Require the numbers at the new Alconbury Weald secondary school to be underwritten. (due to open in Sept 23)
- We would be required to fund 120 pupils per year group same approach we have applied to recent new secondary schools.
- Increasing requirement from the DfE to guarantee numbers for new schools.



Variation to Pupil Numbers



School	Guaranteed Number 21/22 APT - April to Aug (5/12ths)	Guaranteed Number 21/22 APT - Sept to Mar (7/12ths)
Godmanchester Bridge Academy*1	180	210 TBC
Ermine Street Primary*	210	210 TBC
Pathfinder Primary*	240	270 TBC
Trumpington Park Primary	270	330
Littleport Secondary	480	600
Wintringham Park	60	60
Northstowe Secondary	240	360
Cromwell Community College *2	30	60

*1 - Disapplication required

*2 – Move to all-through – adjustment to primary age pupils

Slide #42



Required Actions

Schools Forum are asked to approve:

- 1) the continuation of the current growth fund criteria and funding rates for 2021/22
- the continuation of the centrally retained growth fund to £2m.
- 3) the variation to pupil numbers for new schools.
- the underwriting of pupil numbers for new schools in the future – subject to changes in national policy



Next Steps



- 10th November 2020 Children and Young People Committee
- Mid-December 2020 / Early January 2021 ESFA to publish final DSG figures and revised Authority Proforma Tool (APT)
- 16th December 2020 Schools Forum
- 15th January 2021 Schools Forum
- 19th January 2021 Children and Young People Committee to approve final budget proposals
- 21st January 2021 APT submission deadline to the ESFA
- End of January/early February budgets to be issued to Primary and Secondary Schools (academy budgets will be illustrative only as final budgets will be confirmed by the ESFA).
- Spring 2021 High Needs Consultation to be launched.



Schools Forum Minutes Action Log

The Action Log was updated following the November Forum meeting and 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. Due to the Covid-19 crisis any updates will be provided orally at the meeting

Minutes 17th July 2020

Item	Minute number	Officer	Action	Response	Action
	and report title	Responsible			status
1	Minute 157 Update on High Needs Recovery Plan	Jon Lewis / Councillor Bywater	It was agreed that the Director in consultation with the Chairmen of the Children and Young People Committee and Schools Forum should prepare a letter of representation to Government to request additional funding.	The Service Director, Education explained at the November meeting this had moved on since the last meeting as he had now met with MPs. The suggestion was that rather than just Forum writing to Government requesting additional funding, a more effective course of action would be that a joint letter of representation should be sent.	Action
2	Minute 158 Schools and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Financial Health - Schools Balance Mechanism	Martin Wade	There was a request that the text setting out the mechanism be looked at again to ensure that there was reference to any proposed intervention strategy having the involvement of the receiving trust if there was a proposal to convert it to an academy. It was agreed to amend accordingly and also that the same should also apply where schools were being brokered between trusts.	This would be taken on board as part of the consultation to be undertaken in the spring.	Action ongoing

Item	Minute number and report title	Officer Responsible	Action	Response	Action status
3	Minute 160 Review of Membership and Proportionality – need for more ethnic diversity in the Forum membership	Jon Lewis / Chairman	There was highlighted a lack of ethnic diversity on Forum with one observer suggesting that appointment processes should be reviewed to recognise the need for Forum to embrace a greater degree of ethnic diversity in its membership and that this should be taken into consideration when making future appointments. It was agreed that the Director would highlight this suggestion to the Representative Groups that approved Maintained and Academy sector appointments. The Chairman also undertook to take the suggestion away to discuss it further with the Academy sector representatives.	The Service Director, Education stated that he would undertake a review of the forum membership ahead of the next meeting and that he would ask that ethnicity and diversity be considered throughout the process. <u>An oral update to be provided on any progress</u>	Action Ongoing

Minut	es 6th November	2020			
	Agenda Item	Officer	Action	Response	Status
4.	Minute 165 Schools Funding Update Covering Report - November 2020	Martin Wade	Circulate the total representation of school in consultation responses	After removing duplicates and allowing for the total number of schools represented by multi-academy trusts approximately 106 different schools were represented. The consultation was sent to 255 separate schools across Primary, Secondary and Special, so this figure equates to approximately 42% (but some returns did not specify who they were representing)	Action Completed
5.	Minute 165 Schools Funding Update Covering Report - November 2020	Martin Wade	Provide data analysis on the Change in Out-county provision	This information is included in Appendix A to the School Funding Update Report	Action completed
6.	Minute 165 Schools Funding Update Covering Report - November 2020	Jon Lewis	Organise Meeting with Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP	See action 1 minute 157 above	Action Ongoing

	Agenda Item	Officer	Action	Response	Status
7.	Minute 165 Schools Funding Update Covering Report - November 2020	Martin Wade	Circulate an updated list of School Balances	These will be circulated once available – normally the Schools and DSG financial health paper is presented in May.	Action Ongoing
8.	Minute 165 Schools Funding Update Covering Report - November 2020	Marian Cullen	Provide and update on the Enhanced Resource Base (ERB) Review	This is provided at paragraphs 6.6 to 6.8 of the Schools Funding Update Report	Action completed
9.	Minute 165 Schools Funding Update Covering Report - November 2020	ТВС	Organise a meeting with schools that qualify for Sparsity funding to understand the challenges and impacts	Oral Update to be provided	
10.	Minute 165 Schools Funding Update Covering Report - November 2020	Martin Wade	Provide a list of contributions to Children's services	Extract from a report to Schools Forum in October 2019 set out overleaf shows the full list	Action Completed

				2.6	As previously discussed with Schools, other than for the Early Intervention Support Workers, due to the way in which the Business Planning process is undertaken and the contribution to combined budgets notionally allocated there is not a direct relationship between a reduction in funding and a potential reduction in service. I.e. If the funding is reduced it would not automatically result in a reduction in service for specific areas. This has resulted in the majority of current proposals for delivery being transformational in nature and any further savings required are likely to focus on areas such as: • Early Help District Deliver Service - North • Early Help District Deliver Service - South • Schools Intervention Service - Safeguarding • Schools Intervention Service - Safeguarding • Schools Partnership Service - SEN • Social work capacity • Virtual School (ESLAC) • Youth Service • Preparing for Adulthood Additional Needs Team • Occupational Therapists • Educational Psychology	
11.	Minute 165 Schools Funding Update Covering Report - November 2020	Anna Wahlandt	Early Intervention Family Workers	Sc	is information is included in the hools Funding Update report at ragraphs 5.7 to 5.9	Action completed

Update on Schools Forum's Membership

To: Cambridgeshire Schools Forum Date: 16TH December 2020 From: Rob Sanderson Democratic Services Officer: email: <u>Rob.sanderson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</u> Telephone 01223 699181

Purpose: This report updates Forum on the current membership position

Recommendation:

Schools Forum is recommended to:

note the current position on vacancies on Schools Forum.

1. Background

1.1. As there have been a number of changes to Schools Forum as a result of resignations and the death of the former Vice Chairman, this paper updates Forum on the current status of the membership and the actions to be taken over the next few months.

2. Current position

- 2.1 Set out in the Appendix to this report is the current Forum membership, including details of the four Academy vacancies. Jon Lewis will provide an oral update at the meeting on whether under the Covid restrictions it has been possible to make any progress regarding the required elections process to appoint new members.
- 2.2 Regarding the size of Forum, the July 2019 Forum meeting was informed that as a result of the opening of a new maintained secondary school in Northstowe, it was necessary to increase the Forum size from 22 to 23 voting members to accommodate representation from the maintained secondary sector. While this sector had been represented in the past, by 2019 there were no seats allocated, as all secondary maintained schools had some time before converted to academy status. As there is no longer a secondary school maintained presence, this seat can be removed again. It is not recommended to keep the size at 23 as even at 22 voting members Forum is already a very large meeting when the non-voting observer members are also included, and when held in a physical setting, it has been difficult to accommodate the membership and officers in the rooms available. At Shire Hall only the KV Room, (the biggest Committee room) and the Council Chamber are large enough. In addition, even when some members have been absent, KV room has often been very cramped. One of the advantages of holding meetings virtually has been that there are no physical constraints. Other advantages has been that attendance has been at almost 100% and Members have not been required to travel to Cambridge from other areas of the County, helping reduce the carbon footprint and thereby having more time to undertake other, more productive activities.
- 2.3 Forum is required by the regulations to regularly review its membership to ensure there is the appropriate level of representation from the maintained and academy sectors and this is required to be based on pupil numbers. The July 2018 Forum meeting agreed that there should be an annual report reviewing overall Forum membership. As the last review was in

July this year, the intention is to undertake the next full review in July 2021, taking account of the most up to date pupil census information, to establish whether any further changes are required regarding the proportion of Forum voting places allocated between the maintained and academies sector.

Source Documents: July 2018 and July 2019 Reports and Minutes Location Room 117 Shire Hall. Cambridge <u>https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccc_live/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDe</u> tails/mid/381/id/22/Default.aspx

Cambridgeshire Schools Forum Membership – update 3rd November 2020 –resignations / replacement required in red bold

Full voting membership of Forum has reduced from 23 to 22 the only Secondary maintained school at Northstow having recently converted to being an academy

Quorum calculated on existing membership minus vacancies - Current Forum Voting Members 18 (4 vacancies) quorum currently eight as four academy appointments required to replace the late Dr Alan Rodger, Philip Hodgson and Nick Morley and to fill the additional place required which takes the place of the reduction in the maintained primary representation which has reduced from 4 to 3 as agreed at the July Forum meeting.

School Forum Membership

Maintained sector – also details of appointment process	Representatives	Term of office (End 31 August of the relevant year)
	3 Maintained Primary Headteachers	
Maintained Primary	1. Sasha Howard Headteacher Meldreth Primary Email: <u>head@meldreth.cambs.sch.uk</u>	2019-2023
Election process undertaken by the Primary Head Teachers	2. Liz Bassett Headteacher Ely St Johns Primary Email: <u>head@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk</u>	2019-2023
Group who inform Democratic Services of the outcome 3	3. Guy Underwood Headteacher Great Abington Primary Email: <u>guy.underwood@greatabington.school</u>	2019-2023
	Substitute Tony Davies, Headteacher, St Matthews Primary & Chair of Cambs Primary Heads Group Email: <u>head@stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk</u>	2020-2024

1

Maintained Special	1 Maintained Special School representative	
Representative chosen by Maintained Special Schools Headteachers	4) Joanne Hardwick, head teacher of Samuel Pepys maintained special school in St Neots	2020-August 2024
	Email: head@samuelpepys.cambs.sch.uk	
Meinteined Nursen	4 Maintained Nurseny Cabool representative	
Maintained Nursery	1 Maintained Nursery School representative	
Representative chosen by Nursery headteachers who inform Democratic	5. Claire Palmer Head at Huntingdon Nursery School (appointment confirmed May 2020	
Services	Email: head@huntingdon-nur.cambs.sch.uk	2020- August 2024
Maintained Pupil Referral Unit	1 PRU representative	Appointed 2020-2024
Agreed by the PRU staff who then inform	6. Miss Leah Miller (from Autumn term)	
Democratic Services	Email: LMiller@pilgrim.cambs.sch.uk	
Neinteined Coverner	4 Maintained Cabaal Covernar	
Maintained Governor	1 Maintained School Governor	Appointed December
Election process undertaken by the School Governance Team following a recruitment campaign to seek volunteers from the	7. Paul Stratford – Chair of Governors Alderman Payne Primary School pstratford@aldermanpayne.cambs.sch.uk	Appointed December 2018 to 2022 following advertising campaign from School Governance Team (Tina Hubbard)

Academies Members:

School Type and method of appointment	Representatives	Term of office
Academies Under the regulations academies membership	13 Academies Representatives: Composition to be determined by Academy proprietors. Current composition shown below. One additional appointment to those below required as a result of change of composition agreed at the July 2020 meeting.	
has to be by way of an election process which in	Academy Primary representatives	
CCC is overseen by the Director of Education and has to include a special school representative and academy alternative representative if there is such provision in the County. It would also be appropriate to have representation from both primary and secondary academy heads to represent each academy schools sector although this is not specified in the regulations.	1. Susannah Connell, Headteacher, Middlefield Academy and CEO Diamond Learning Partnership Trust (Also Chair of Cambridgeshire Primary Academy Forum) Email: <u>pa@diamondlearningtrust.com</u> Substitute	2019-23
	Academy Special School representative	
	2. Simon Bainbridge Email: <u>Exechead@highfield.cambs.sch.uk</u> Currently no named substitute	August 2020-2024
L	3	

Academy Alternative Provision one place	
3. Nick Morley – <u>resigned 15th May 2020 new appointment</u> <u>required</u>	Original appointment September 2019- July 2023
Email: <u>nmorley@tbap.org.uk</u>	
4. Philip Hodgson – Board Member – Anglian Learning Email: philip@coppins15.co.uk	December 2018 –2022
<u>RESIGNED 2ND November a new member will need to be</u> <u>sought.</u>	
5. Vacancy following death of Dr Alan Rodger 3 rd January 2020 Board Member – Morris Trust replacement needed	Original appointment December 2018- 2022
 Other academy appointments made at Forum December 2018	
6. Jon Culpin – CEO of Anglian Learning Email: jculpin@anglianlearning.org	2018-2022
7. Richard Spencer – Principal of Ely College Email: <u>rspencer@cmatrust.net</u>	2018-2022
8. Patsy Peres – Principal at Ramsey Spinning Infant and Ramsey Junior Email: <u>Head@ramspin.org</u> Substitute James Robertson	2018-2022
Other Academy appointments confirmed at Forum 18 th December 2019	
9. Adrian Ball Email: <u>adrian.ball@demat.org.uk</u>	2019-2023

	Email: <u>CBennet@stpetershuntingdon.org</u>	
	11. John King	2019-2023
	Email: <u>John.King@SirHarrySmithCommun.onmicrosoft.com</u>	
	12. Ryan Kelsall	2019-2023
	Email: rkelsall@impington.cambs.sch.uk	
	13. Additional new appointment required after change of composition agreed in July	
]		

Non School Voting Members:

Group represented	Representative	Term of office
Early Years Reference	1 representative of the Early Years Reference Group	
Group		
Democratic Services	Deborah Parfitt	2020- August 2024
informed of appointment	Email: dparfitt@nenerjs.org	0
by Early Years		
Reference Group		
Post 16 FE	1 representative of Post 16 FE	
	Jeremy Lloyd from Cambridge Regional College (notification received from Marian	December 2018-2022
	Cullen 10 th December 2018 and is the replacement for Nathan Jones who left Dec 2017)	
	Email: <u>JLloyd@camre.ac.uk</u>	
	Paul O'Shea from West Anglia College to be his substitute.	
	Email: Paul.Oshea@cwa.ac.uk	

Note: All terms of office cease on 31 August in the year shown

Quorum = 40% of non-vacant membership:

- For 21 or 22 or 23 members the quorum is 9
- For 18, 19 or 20 members the quorum is 8
- For 16 or 17 members the quorum is 7
- For 15 members the quorum is 6

Substitutes

Nominating groups may appoint two named substitute members for each sector type or nominate another named representative in advance of the meeting if both substitutes are unable to attend. They will have full voting rights

OBSERVERS:

May participate in debate but have no voting rights. Non County Councillor observers may send a named substitute.

- 1 Representative Diocese of Ely Board of Education Andrew Read email: <u>Andrew.Read@elydiocese.org</u>
 - substitutes Amy Weaver Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding <u>amy.weaver@demat.org.uk</u> Alex Rutterford-Duffety Director of Finance, Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust (DEMAT) <u>alex.rutterford-duffety@demat.org.uk</u> and Jacqueline McCamphill
- 1 Representative Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia Joe Mc Crossan Head of St Albans School Cambridge head@stalbans.cambs.sch.uk
- Teacher Union membership representative, Jon Duveen <u>duvjon27@gmail.com</u>
- Non Teacher Union membership representative, non-teaching JCNG Rob Turner <u>Robert.Turner@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</u>
- sub Julie Cornwall <u>Julie.Cornwell@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</u> or Julia Drummond <u>Julia.Drummond@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</u>
- Cambridgeshire County Council three appointments made annually by Children and Young People Committee:
 - o Councillor Simon Bywater <u>Simon.Bywater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</u>
 - o Councillor Peter Downes <a>Peter.Downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
 - Councillor Simone Taylor <u>Simone.Taylor@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</u>
 - (CYP Committee agreed at their meeting on 7th May 2020 meeting that Cllr Taylor would replace Cllr Whitehead)

File WP - Schools Forum - Schools Forum Membership details – update 8th December 2020

Schools Funding Update – December 2020

To: Cambr	idgeshire Schools Forum
-----------	-------------------------

Date: 16 December 2020

From: Jonathan Lewis – Service Director: Education Martin Wade – Strategic Finance Business Partner

Purpose: To provide Schools Forum with an update on the latest funding positon in respect of the 2021/22 Schools budget setting round.

Recommendations:

- 1) Schools Forum are asked to note and comment on the contents of the report.
- 2) Maintained School representative are asked to comment on the results of the consultation in respect of ongoing insurance arrangements.
- Maintained Primary School representatives are asked whether they wish to approve the continued LA insurance de-delegation arrangements at £21 per pupil, or move to the DfE Risk Protection Arrangement.
- 4) Schools Forum are asked to approve the following on a line by line basis:
 - a) Capital Expenditure from Revenue (CERA)
 - b) School Admissions
 - c) Servicing of Schools Forum

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The following report will aim to provide and update on the latest positon in respect of the Schools Budget setting process for 2021/22. It will also address some of the questions raised at the previous meeting of Schools Forum in November.
 - Update on 2021/22 School Budgets
 - Insurance arrangements
 - Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) position and historical spend
 - Central School Services Block
 - High Needs Block
 - Next Steps

2.0 SCHOOL BUDGETS 2021/22

2.1 At the Children and Young People (CYP) Committee on the 10th November the Committee approved the submission of a disapplication request to the Secretary of State for Education for a transfer of funding of 1.0%, approximately £3.8m between the Schools Block and High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant for the 2021/22 school budget setting process. As such a disapplication request was submitted by the 20th November deadline and a response is expected in due course. Please note: Even if approved by the Secretary of State this does not necessarily mean that it will be applied. Final approval of the schools formula will be made at the CYP Committee meeting on 19th January 2021.

- 2.2 The Spending Review announcements on the 25th November 2020 reaffirmed the previous commitment to increase the core schools budget by £7.1 billion by 2022/23, compared to 2019/20 funding levels. This results in an increase of £2.2 billion between 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- 2.3 Early Years Education will receive an increase of £44m in 2021/22 to increase the hourly rate paid to childcare providers for the government's free hours offers. It is also our understanding that the maintained schools supplementary grant has been extended for the 2021-22 academic year, although this is yet to be confirmed.
- 2.4 At the time of writing there has been no further detail in respect of exactly what these announcements will mean for the final 2021/22 DSG. The expectation is that final DSG allocations and the revised Authority Proforma Tool (APT) are to be published in the week commencing 14th December. Therefore if additional information is available in advance of Schools Forum it will be shared by officers, or a verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

2.5 The table below shows the current estimated DSG funding block totals to be received in 2021/22 and actual 2020/21 allocations for comparative purposes:

	Actual	Indicative
	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m
Schools Block (incl. growth fund and	£387.77	£400.822
baseline grants) 1		
High Needs Block (incl. baseline grants) 1	£76.444	£82.509
Central School Services Block	£7.027	£6.259
Early Years Block	£37.658	£37.658
	£508.899	£527.249

- Please note: The Schools Block and High Needs Block figures include an element of funding in respect of the Teachers Pay Grants (TPG) / Teachers Pensions Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) which was previously funded separately. The baseline allocations for 2020/21 were approximately £17.566m in the Schools Block and £1.034m in the High Needs Block, and have been included to allow an overall comparison between years.
- 2.6 Following receipt of the revised October census numbers a revised estimate of growth funding to be received has been calculated. In 2020/21 the growth fund element of the DSG totaled £3.125m, the revised estimate for 2021/22 totals £3.2m. The table below shows the estimated subsidy required to support the continued growth of existing and new schools to meet basic need.

	£m
Estimated DSG Growth Fund Allocation *1	-£3.2
Centrally Retained Growth Fund	£2.0
Estimated Implicit Growth (variations to pupil numbers) *2	£2.2
Estimated required subsidy within the funding formula *3	£1.0
	£1.0

*1 – Based on draft census data

*2 - Based on current modelling and minimum per pupil levels (MPPL)

*3 - Comparative figure for 2020/21 was £1.6m

- 2.7 On receipt of the final DSG allocations and APT, detailed budget modelling will be undertaken to calculate the final budget allocations for 2021/22 which will reflect the changes in pupil numbers and characteristics, alongside the changes in the national formula in respect of the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) and the new higher minimum per pupil levels (MPPL), including the baselining of the teachers pay grant and teachers pensions employers contribution grant. The final figures will also be updated to reflect variations to pupil numbers for new schools and any changes to business rates. Indicative allocations will be shared at the Schools Forum meeting on the 15th January 2021.
- 3.0 Insurance Arrangements For 2021/22
- 3.1 As part of the original consultation on Schools Funding for 2021/22 maintained schools were asked for their views as to whether they supported the continuation of the current de-delegation arrangement for insurance or for the cover to be provided by the DfE's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA).

The extract below is from the original consultation document: Page 71 of 82 For 2020/21 the DfE extended the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA), which is an alternative to commercial insurance, to include local authority maintained schools. Due to the timing of the announcement it was agreed that Cambridgeshire maintained schools would remain as part of the authority scheme for 2020/21. Although theoretically schools would be able to decide to join the RPA on an individual basis because of the existing dedelegation arrangements for insurance it will need to operate on an all or nothing basis. i.e. either all maintained schools remain as part of the LA scheme or they move to the RPA.

3.2 In order to allow schools and governors to take a more informed view additional information was subsequently circulated to maintained schools and a short survey undertaken. The results of this survey can be seen below:

4. Maintained Schools are asked whether they support the continuation of the current arrangements for insurance as part of the LA scheme?(Please note: Due to the existing arrangements this is an all or nothing decision - schools will not be able to opt in or out on an individual basis.)

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Continue with the LA Insurance Scheme		89.58%	43
2	Move to the DfE Risk Protection Arrangement		8.33%	4
3	Not Sure	I	2.08%	1

Of the 48 responses received, 90% supported the continuation of the de-delegation for the LA scheme and 8% supported the move to the DfE Risk Protection Arrangement, whilst the remaining 2% were not sure.

Comments included:

"Had experience of a big claim and like to know that I have good support readily available. The County offer is good value as well."

"The proposed cost difference is negligible, and the LA scheme offers better cover for money in locked receptacles, professional indemnity and off site activities."

3.3 Based on this additional information maintained representatives are asked to comment on the insurance arrangements for 2021/22 and maintained primary representatives are asked whether they wish to approve the continued LA insurance de-delegation arrangements at £21 per pupil, or move to the DfE Risk Protection Arrangement.

4.0 DSG Position In-Year And Historical Spend

- 4.1 Appendix A provides details of the DSG spend for 2018/19, 2019/20 and current forecasts for 2020/21. The in-year DSG positon is presented to CYP committee as part of the overall finance monitoring report whenever they meet and the current revised forecast for 2020/21 is now a £11.3m pressure, down from the original £12.7m forecast at the start of the year. The budget figures are gross and therefore include £249.6m of recoupment for primary and secondary academies, and a further £12.7m of recoupment for High Needs Places (academy special schools, units, further education etc.).
- 4.2 The summary table below shows how the deficit has increased since 2016/17, prior to which the DSG a surplus balance was carried forward year on year, and how based on current forecasts the deficit could increase to in the region of £35m by the end of 2021/22.

DSG Block	2016/17 Actual £000	2017/18 Actual £000	2018/19 Actual £000	2019/20 Actual £000	2020/21 Forecast £000	2021/22 Forecast £000
High Needs Block	£2,700	£4,626	£8,836	£11,578	£11,417	£8,175
Other Blocks	-£135	-£4,097	-£2,192	-£2,244	-£131	-£1,000
In-Year Final Position + Deficit - Surplus	£2,565	£529	£6,644	£9,334	£11,286	£7,175
Cumulative - Surplus / + Deficit B/fwd	-£2,452	£113	£642	£7,286	£16,620	£27,906
Cumulative Deficit to C/fwd	£113	£642	£7,286	£16,620	£27,906	£35,081

5.0 Central School Services Block

5.1 For 2021/22 Cambridgeshire will receive an estimated Central School Services Block (CSSB) of £6.259m (final allocation dependent on census numbers), compared to £7.027m received in 2020/21. As previously reported the expectation is that the historic commitments will unwind over time, for example because a contract has reached its end point. The DfE would therefore expect local authorities to reflect this in Section 251 returns and the ESFA will monitor historic spend year-on-year and will challenge LA's where spend is not reducing as expected. From 2020/21, the DfE started to reduce the historic commitments element of the central school services funding block where authorities' expenditure had not reduced. They do not believe it is fair to maintain significant differences in funding indefinitely between local authorities, where these differences reflect historic decisions.

5.2 The table below shows the allocation of CSSB in 2020/21 and indicative figures for 2021/22.

Budget Line	2020/21	2021/22	Description		
Contribution to combined budgets	£2,233k	£1,733k	Contribution to Children's Services, including £733k Early Intervention Family Worker (previously Parental Support Advisors)		
Capital expenditure from revenue (CERA)	£1,167k	£875k	Schools Broadband Contract		
Total Spend on Historic Commitments	£3,400k	£2,608k			
School Admissions	£508k £508k		Can be increased with Forum approval.		
Servicing of Schools Forum	£3k	£3k	No increase in expenditure allowed		
Other Items	£450k	£450k	National Copyright Licence arrangements – set by DfE – awaiting 2021/22 figure		
Retained Duties Funding	£1,449k	£1,605k	As per DfE figures (pupil-led) – awaiting final 2021/22 figure		
Total Ongoing Responsibilities	£2,410k	£2,566k			
Total CSSB Budgeted Expenditure	£5,810k	£5,174k			
High Needs Block	£1,217k £1,085k		Movement to High Needs Block as approved by Schools Forum – Final figure will be balancing amount once Copyright and Retained Duties Funding allocations confirmed.		
Total Allocation of CSSB	£7,027k	£6,259k			

- 5.3 Although the Contribution to Combined budgets and retained duties funding (including the continued retention of £10 per pupil from maintained schools for services specifically provided to maintained schools) was approved at the previous meeting, Schools Forum are asked to formally approve the following on a line by line basis:
 - a) Capital Expenditure from Revenue (CERA)
 - b) School Admissions
 - c) Servicing of Schools Forum

Please note: Approval is not required for the central copyright licenses negotiated by the secretary of state.

5.4 At the previous meeting clarification was requested on the services and functions currently funded from the contribution to combined budgets. Currently £733k of the contribution to combined budgets supports the Early Intervention Family Workers as approved by Schools Forum and the remaining £1m notionally supports a number of services within the wider People and Communities (P&C) Directorate. This element has gradually reduced from the original £32,007/18.

- 5.5 The contribution to combined budgets has historically supported a range of budgets including:
 - Early Help District Deliver Service North
 - Early Help District Deliver Service South
 - Schools Intervention Service Safeguarding
 - Schools Partnership Service SEN
 - Social work capacity
 - Virtual School
 - Youth Service
 - Preparing for Adulthood Additional Needs Team
 - Occupational Therapists
 - Educational Psychology
- 5.6 As previously discussed with Schools Forum, other than for the Early Intervention Family Support Workers, due to the way in which the Business Planning process is undertaken and the contribution to combined budgets notionally allocated there is not a direct relationship between a reduction in funding and a potential reduction in service. i.e. If the funding is reduced it would not automatically result in a reduction in service for specific areas.
- 5.7 Further information was also requested specifically in respect of the £733k for Early Intervention Family Workers (EIFW) which moved into the Alternative Education Provision Service on the 1st April 2020, and are now managed by Anna Wahlandt (County Manager) and Michael Kaoura (Deputy County Manager).
- 5.8 The service currently have 7 vacancies which transferred over and predominantly, these feature within Cambridge City. The service have endeavoured to cover requested support where possible and hope to begin a recruitment drive in January 2021. The original planned recruitment process has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 5.9 The service currently accepts the majority of its referrals from either direct contact with schools or parental self-referrals.

Criteria for accessing support

- Short term intervention of no more than 6 sessions
- Specifically specified work around certain issues e.g anxiety, sleep, challenging behaviour, routines, parenting strategies, building resilience and confidence.
- Families can be signposted to drop in sessions within allocated schools for support with the above issues.
- Families can be signposted to virtual workshops. The themes of the workshops will change dependant on the needs within the district.
- Signposting to other support.
- 1-1 sessions.
- Support around school transitions.
- Can take on step downs from Early Help for specific pieces of work following discussion between Early Help Managers and Mangers within Alternative education and Inclusion service.
- Attending school events.

EIFW service is unable to support if:

- They are required to be lead professional.
- The support will last longer than six sessions.
- The children are Electively Home Educated.
- The children attend a private genoop 182

6.0 High Needs Block

- 6.1 Appendix A shows how the spend on specific areas has increased over the previous 2-3 years, most notably in respect of Special Schools and Units, Top-up funding and Out of School Tuition, due to increases in overall commissioned places and numbers, as well as complexity of need. At the previous meeting of Schools Forum a question was raised in respect of the numbers and levels of expenditure in respect of the SEN Placements budget. Where a suitable placement cannot be made in a mainstream school or a Cambridgeshire Special School pupils may be placed in an independent special school, or out-of-county.
- 6.2 The table below shows the SEN Placement budget, numbers and average cost for the last 3 years, plus the current forecast for 2021/22:

	Actual						
SEN Placements	Budgeted No of Placements	Annual Budget £000	Ave annual cost £000	No. of Placements at year end	Yearly Ave	Outturn	Ave annual cost £000
2017/18	157	£8,573	£55	172	163.77	£9,942	£60
2018/19	157	£9,573	£61	171	182.03	£9,753	£52
2019/20	181	£9,573	£53	190	192.34	£9,844	£51
2020/21	203	£10,757	£53	212*		£11,242*	£53

*Forecasts to the end of October

- 6.3 As the overall numbers of EHCPs and complexity of need has continued to rise this has resulted in increased pressure on special school places. Despite the expansion of existing provision and the opening of two new special schools in recent years, resulting in over 300 new places, there are still pupil and families who remain without a special school place and as such may request independent specialist provision. There has been a particular increase in the demand for autism (ASD) and social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) placements.
- 6.4 Work is ongoing to identify sufficiency needs, mapping future need against current sufficiency in order to better understand gaps and in turn change the market composition in order to respond. The likely areas to be explored are inclusion in schools and increased capacity / use of existing special schools; with a particular concentration on SEMH, ASD and further education.
- 6.5 As demand continues to outstrip internal capacity we continue to rely on the independent sector, and as a result incur the financial impact. This is necessary when appropriate for the right child, at the right time, however due to insufficient local independent provision to meet some education need groups we have a reliance on a few large providers and a disproportionate amount of provision with residential support due to distance from home. However, in this instance we continue to drive up commercial contracting arrangements to secure best value, including the use of block contracts that capitalise on economies of scale and a dynamic purchasing system that enables both secured and predictable pricing; and the capability to directly award to meet individual need and/or best value to the high needs block.

- 6.6 An update was also requested on the review that has been undertaken over the last year, of the commissioning arrangements for Enhanced Resource Bases (ERBs) attached to mainstream schools across the county. This included looking at the local and national context and analysing information, data, views from schools, parent carers, children and young people and professionals working with the ERBs.
- 6.7 Parent, carers, children and young people speak highly of the ERB offer and there is no intention to cease current placements at ERBs. Going forward, however, we want to ensure better transparency and equity across the county. There may also be opportunity to 'invest to save'. Any proposals for new ERBs or significant change to existing ERBs will be agreed via the newly established SEND Strategic Commissioning Board. The new Board will ensure that providers and the Local Authority work in partnership to agree provision is developed to meet the needs of children in Cambridgeshire. The Board will draw on SEND sufficiency forecast data and financial modelling to ensure that business cases and new models meet an evidenced need and make the most efficient use of resources.
- 6.8 New processes around the commissioning cycle for ERBs are being established. We are aware that existing Service Level Agreements are not up-to-date. A model ERB specification is being prepared which will form the basis for future commissioning contracts. Schools will be invited to join us in this process in the new year.
- 7.0 Next Steps

7.1

- Mid-December 2020 / Early January 2021 ESFA to publish final DSG figures and revised Authority Proforma Tool (APT)
 - Mid-December 2020 / Early January 2021 Secretary of State to inform LA of disapplication request outcome
 - 15th January 2021 Schools Forum Draft High Needs consultation to be shared
 - 19th January 2021 Children and Young People Committee to approve final budget proposals
 - 21st January 2021 APT submission deadline to the ESFA
 - End of January/early February budgets to be issued to Primary and Secondary Schools (academy budgets will be illustrative only as final budgets will be confirmed by the ESFA).
 - Mid-February initial Nursery School and Special School Budgets to be issued. (subject to confirmation of funding arrangements)
 - Spring 2021 High Needs Consultation to be launched.

Source documents; None

Appendix A - Dedicated Schools Grant Spend to 2020/21

	Actual to the end of 2018/19	Actual to the end of 2019/20	Budget for 2020/21 as at end of Nov	Forecast Variance for 2020/21 as at end of Nov	
	£	£	£	£	
Director of Commissioning					
Commissioning Services	245,000	245,000	245,000	0	Occupational Therapy
Director of Commissioning Total	245,000	245,000	245,000	0	
Director of Children & Safeguarding					Faily Intervention Family Workers may ad to Fauly
Support to Parents	732,890				Early Intervention Family Workers - moved to Early Help, now included in Alternative Provision &
Support to Faterits	732,090	0	0	0	Inclusion
		Ū.	0	0	
District Delivery Service					
Early Help District Delivery Service - North	217,509	510,465	0		
Early Help District Delivery Service - South	208,268	0	2,572		Residual budget to be removed
Director of Children & Safeguarding Total	1,158,667	510,465	2,572	0	
Director of Education					
Early Years Service	1,065,348	1,492,503	1,517,948		Inclusion Fund (SEINIF)
Schools Partnership Service	142,929	104,276	150,000	23,178	Virtual School
Redundancy & Teachers Pensions	6,072	7,370	0	0	
SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years)					
SEND Specialist Services	7,228,801	7,259,128	7,825,934	-831,879	Sensory Support, Equipment, SEND North & South, Inclusion & Access, SEMH Support programme
Funding to Special Schools and Units	27,473,544	29,346,390	32,404,421	0	Grossed up for HN place recoupment
High Needs Top Up Funding	21,621,636	23,285,543	, ,		Grossed up for HN place recoupment
SEN Placements	10,153,216	10,393,341		,	Also includes other out-county budgets
Out of School Tuition	2,544,736	4,083,594	4,083,594	0	
EOTAS Devolution	5,763,788	5,764,406	5,735,513	-291,000	Grossed up for HN place recoupment
Alternative Provision and Inclusion	0	0	1,292,078		Previously reported under Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and Support to Parents / Early Help
SEND Financing - DSG	0	0	-12,744,457	12,744,457	Original High Needs Block Forecast Deficit
0 10 Place Planning & Organization Organization					
0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service 0-19 Organisation & Planning	3,044,156	2,953,141	2,601,873	-131 000	Includes Growth Fund
Home to School Transport - Special	150,000	400,000		,	Personal Transport Budgets
Director of Education Total	79,194,226	85,089,692	80,229,831	11,285,554	

Overall Total	80,597,892	85,845,157	80,477,403	11,285,554
Contribution to Combined Budgets	3,124,522	3,027,000	1,499,979	0 Decreased year on year
<u>Schools</u>				
Primary & Secondary Schools	337,483,330	344,508,607	368,204,321	0 Grossed up for academy recoupment
Nursery Schools and PVI	34,061,707	34,981,545	36,473,433	0 Includes Early Years prior year adjustment estimate
Schools Financing	-451,596,121	-462,231,070	-488,847,169	0 Grossed up for recoupment - anticipate underspend due to recoupment
Broadband & Copyright	1,875,376	1,897,338	1,616,379	0
PRUs	827,652	1,336,469	575,654	Now just Pilgrim PRU - Alternative Education 0 included in AP & Inclusion
Pools and Contingencies	155,201	-31,356	0	0
Schools Total	-77,192,856	-79,538,466	-81,977,382	0
Overall Total	6,529,559	9,333,691	0	11,285,554
Previous years DSG deficit Prior Year Adjustments (EY & Recoupment)	641,935 114,680	7,286,174	_	16,619,864
Overall Revised Cumulative DSG Deficit	7,286,174	16,619,864		27,905,419

 2020/21 Academy Recoupment:
 249,646,874

 2020/21 High Needs Place Recoupment:
 12,700,835

Agenda Item No: 6 :

Cambridgeshire Schools Forum – Forward Agenda Plan

All meetings will be held at 10.00am in the Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, Cambridge CB3 0AP unless otherwise specified taking account of any continued lockdown measures that might require the use of virtual meetings. **Please note that if the County Council's move from Shire Hall does take place in what is likely to now be the summer of 2021 the meetings from potentially July 2021 onwards will need to be accommodated at Alconbury if the dates do not remain as virtual meetings. Some of the dates below may be retained as workshops / training sessions if a formal meeting of Forum is not required.

Date of meeting	Agenda Item	Report author	Reports due to reach Democratic Services by:
Wednesday 15 th January 2021	Schools Funding Update	Jon Lewis / Martin Wade	Tuesday 5th January 2021
	New dates for Forum beyond July 2021	Democratic Services Officer	
Friday 26 th February 2021 reserve date	Schools Funding Update	Jon Lewis / Martin Wade	Monday 15 th February 2021
	Virtual Meetings Review (may move to later meeting if deemed still too early)	Democratic Services /	
Wednesday 24 th March 2021	Terms of Reference Review -	Jon Lewis	Thursday 11 th March 2021
Reserve date 21 st May** 20201	School Balances and DSG Financial Health	Martin Wade	Monday 10 th May 2021
16 th July 2021** This meeting has been moved from KV Room to Council Chamber	Proportionality Review	Democratic Services	Monday 5 th July 2021

To be scheduled:

Review of Nursery Schools Funding - John Lewis, Hazel Belchamber (with input from Graham Arnold and Alastair Hale) this still awaits further information from the Government.

Provision of Early Intervention Family Workers - Jon Lewis?

Sparsity Criteria Review – Jon Lewis?