

SCHOOLS FORUM

2017/18 Contingencies Breakdown January 2018

1 Purpose of the Report

This report is to inform the Schools Forum on how the Council has applied the de-delegated school contingency. Any underspend in this area can be carried forward to the next financial year or refunded back (after 2017/18 closedown) to maintained schools and, if applicable, any schools that have converted to Academy in 2017/18.

2 Suggested Actions

The Schools Forum maintained school members are asked to approve the carried forward of any underspends in this funds to the new financial year.

3 Background

The Department for Education (DfE) allow the Council to run specific services for its maintained schools, if the maintained schools require this type of support.

The contingency is managed by Finance with each claim assessed on its merit.

4 Financial Summary

At present there are two claims on this funding, both of which have been approved. The schools involved will be closely monitored to identify any issues or changes that may affect their ability to deliver a balanced budget in future, and support will be provided where required.

Please see the table below:

Description	Amount
Contingency for Maintained schools in financial difficulties	(£129,510)
School A: has had unusual difficulties in staffing which they have been working with Human Resources department for the last 2 years. The issue is beginning to seriously drain the financial resources of the school and affect their viability. A lump sum has been agreed for them to restructure their resources until there is a end to the current situation.	£30,000
School B: May 2016 a middle leader was arrested. The leader was suspended on full pay whilst the investigation proceeded. The charge was actually made in June 2017. Once the school could dismiss this member of staff, a payment in lieu of notice was required and this staff member will be paid up to December 2017.	£30,000

<p>The individual was the highest paid member of staff not on the leadership scale. 20 Month full pay is the cost to the school.</p> <p>To mitigate the financial impact, many staff took on additional work with the Head and Deputy Head teaching classes.</p> <p>The impact of the case also involved additional staff time with HR and legal.</p> <p>The school's carried forward from 16/17 has all been used up on this issue and the school is now going into deficit. This issue is now in the public domain.</p>	
Total amount not yet committed.	(£69,510)

5 Conclusion

The schools' contingency is available to maintained schools as per the school budget guidance published by the Department of Education (DfE).

Please note that this funding belongs to the maintained schools and any underspend will either be returned to the maintained schools budget or carried forward into 2018/19.

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January 2018