

SCHOOLS FORUM

Schools Budget Financial Monitoring Report – February 2016

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide details of the outturn position on the Schools Budget funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (including EFA funding), Pupil Premium Grant and Universal Infant Free School Meal grant.

Suggested Action

- 2 The Forum are asked to note the contents of this report.

Update

- 3 The Final budget report presented at the March 2015 Forum showed an outturn position of (£807k) as at the end of March 2016. The forecast as at the end of January is (£1,151k) having seen a £343k improvement since last Forum.

This improvement has removed the expected in year deficit. The budget agreed by Forum anticipated an overspend of £659k this is now anticipated to be a £169k underspend during the financial year 2015/16

The material forecast movements are highlighted below.

4	Material movements	£'000's	£'000's
	Budgeted deficit / (surplus)		(807)
	Position reported at last Forum		(808)
	Material movements since last forum		
	Provision for pupils with SEN	(136)	
	High Needs Block Allocations	(140)	
	Support for Inclusion	(13)	
	School Admissions	(14)	
	Decrease in Growth funding requirement in this financial year	(40)	
	Forecast Carry forward deficit/ (surplus) to 16/17		(1,151)

- 5 There is one final payment to be sent out to Private and Voluntary Nurseries before year end. This is due the 11th week of the spring term. Estimates at the end of January would indicate a £60k headroom. Thus giving a potential underspend of £60k at the end of the financial year. Consideration is currently being given to increasing the EYSFF base rate by 3p for 2016/17

We have seen a reduction of £136k in the amount distributed to schools for pupils with EHCP's – this could be as a result of the conversion process from statements or there could potentially be a lagged impact. This could also be as a result of the moderation panel providing a short term funding mechanism and so delaying the application for an EHCP. In 2014/15 we had 272 pupils with Statements this has dropped to 265 pupils in 2015/16.

We have also seen a reduction of £140k being distributed to special schools and resource units across the borough, this amounts to a 2% reduction and is largely due to the change of profile in starters and leavers taking up these places.

Both the Educational Psychologists Team and the Admissions team have staff vacancies unlikely to be filled before the end of the financial year and are showing underspends of £13k and £14k respectively.

Negotiations are still ongoing with the providers of the new secondary school; but at this point in time £40k is expected to be spent in the next financial year rather than the current.

Donna Munday
Schools Finance Manager,
February 2016