
Meeting: Schools Forum
Date: 28 September 2009
Subject: Schools Specific Contingency Budget
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children, Families and Learning
Summary: To update the Schools Forum on the use of the Schools Contingency Budget.

Contact Officer: Dawn Hill, Borough Hall, Bedford

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

Reason for urgency
(if appropriate)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. To discuss and comment on the position statement as at Period 4 July.**
- 2. To approve that the additional funding of the responsibility points for Head-teachers managing additional units and contributions to awards are not to be funded from Schools Contingency.**

Background

1. The Schools Specific Contingency Budget has been previously employed to fund the following:
 - Rent and Joint Use equalisation charge;
 - Rates adjustments that have arisen from re-valuations or an adjustment to original formula – equalisation charges;
 - Funding of exceptional circumstances, with up to £10,000 delegated to the Director of Children’s Services;
 - Attendance Manager post;
 - Floor Area adjustments to the initial allocation of SBS. No in year adjustments are made;

- DSG Shortfall;
- Redundancy/Safeguarding costs;
- Additional pupil numbers;
- Headteacher Re-imburement for managing additional responsibilities (2008/09);
- Hearing Impaired – Parkfields (£1,672), Toddington St George (£1,761) Language Provision – Lark Rise (£1,720); and
- Contribution to award at Vandyke Upper School £400.

2. At the Central Bedfordshire Schools Forum on 2 March 2009, the following budgets were agreed as:

- £500,000 General Contingency;
- £270,000 SEN Contingency; and
- £200,840 to finance the shift of funding between the two new unitary authorities arising from the Special Schools Funding Formula review This will apply to 2009-10 and 2010-11 only, thereafter the new national formula for DSG distribution will be in place.

Total Budget agreed for 2009/10 £970,840

3. The School Contingency carry forward share from Bedfordshire County Council, as at 31 March 2009 is £671,100 which is to be split into General and SEN Contingency

General	£283,260
SEN	£387,840 (of which £218,767 earmarked for Oakbank building project)

General Contingency Spend to 31 July 2009

	BUDGET £	SPEND £	BALANCE £
Carry Forward from 2008/2009	283,260		
Budget Allocation 2009/10	500,000		
Attendance Manager Post		40,000	
Floor Area Adjustment		6,880	
Rates Adjustments		-2,990	
DSG Adjustment		4,000	
NQT Adjustment		1,594	
Teacher Threshold Adjustment		-1,187	
LACSEG		444	
Total General Contingency	783,260	48,741	734,519

- 5.
- As agreed by the School Forum, 2 March 2009, to fund through contingency a further years trial (2009/10) period for an Attendance Manager post to a total cost of £40,000 but to be self funded through the buy back arrangements for 2010/11.
 - Floor Area adjustments to the initial allocation of SBS.
 - Rates adjustments have arisen from re-valuations or an adjustment to original formula.
 - DSG shortfall of £4,000. Final settlement less than budgeted (1 pupil).
 - An adjustment to the initial allocation of funding for NQT.
 - Refund on the funding of Teacher Threshold.
 - Academy costs (LACSEG) £444. Revised estimate of DSG withheld for Northfield's Academy.

SEN Contingency Spend to 31 July 2009

6.

	BUDGET £	SPEND £	BALANCE £
Carry Forward from 2008/2009	387,840		
Budget Allocation 2009/10	270,000		
Total SEN Contingency	657,840	NIL	657,840

- The recurrent budget of £270,000 is the balance of the former allocation to Rainbow School (now closed), where it was agreed that the funding would be retained for SEN provision.

Special Schools Spend to 31 July 2009

7.

	BUDGET £	SPEND £	BALANCE £
Carry Forward from 2008/2009	NIL		
Budget Allocation 2009/10	200,840		
Unitary Authority Shift		200,840	
Total SEN Contingency	200,840	200,840	NIL

Appendices:

None