Meeting:	**Schools Forum**
Date:	**20th September 2010**
Subject:	**School Forum Budget**

Report of:	**Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services**
Summary:	To provide an update on the use of the School Forum Budget for 2010/11.

Contact Officer:	Dawn Hill, Borough Hall, Bedford
Public/Exempt:	Public
Wards Affected:	All
Function of:	Council
Reason for urgency (if appropriate)	

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To note the School Forum position statement as at Period 04.

Background

1.   The School Forum Budget falls under Section 2 of The School Finance Regulations 2008.   'Classes or descriptions of planned expenditure prescribed for the purposes of the Schools budget of a Local Education Authority which may be deducted from it to determine the Individual Schools Budget' (top slice Direct Schools Grant - DSG) – 'establishment and maintenance, of and consultation with, schools forums'.

2.   It was agreed at the School Forum meeting of the 8th March 2010 that a budget of £5,000 will be available for costs associated with the operation of the Forum e.g. venue hire, expenses and clerking costs, of which £2,000 be set aside and delegated to the Chairman of the Schools Forum to fund the commissioning of consultancy and administration support. The level of the budget will be reviewed annually.

3.   The School Forum budget under spend from 2009/10, as at 31st March 2010 is £2,694, which is carried forward to 2010/11.

Expenditure to Date

4.   It was further resolved at the School Forum meeting of the 8th March 2010 that Central Bedfordshire would remain a member of the F40 Group, representing the lowest funded Local Authorities and that £2,000 from the Schools Forum budget be utilised for the annual subscription.

5. The following table sets out the spend against the School Forum Budget.

	BUDGET £	SPEND £	BALANCE £
Carry Forward from 2009/10	2,694		
Budget Allocation 2010/11	5,000		
F40 Subscription		(2,000)	
Consultancy DSG Review		(1,625)	
Subsistence		(5)	
Conference Expenses		(216)	
Total General Contingency	**7,694**	**(3,846)**	**3,848**

Appendices:

None