

Supplementary information submitted by Schools and Officers of Central Bedfordshire Council in response to Schools Forum's Sub-Group request for future information

1. The Lawns Nursery

£24,767 out of balance earmarked for restructure

School have submitted detailed costs per year for each of the members of staff who have had their salaries safeguarded for 3 years.

The school may still have an excess surplus balance at the end of 10/11 as they will have earmarked funds for future years safeguarding which will need to be carried forward in order for the budget not to be in deficit as the safeguarding payments will still be on-going.

School have confirmed that they will not be asking LA to fund but will send in revised budget showing that if surplus balance clawed back it would put the school into deficit position.

2. Sundon Lower

Sch had submitted additional info to SFA on time, but SFA had not passed over for surplus balance group, but filed.

Original information:-

- Due to falling pupil nos, sch held off with essential maint & repair work
- Were in position of considering redundancies, c/f enabled sch to balance its budget for next two years without going into deficit, but 2 staff volunteered resignations so no further cuts to staffing by redundancy.
- Necessary repairs to temp classroom £39K to extend life by 2-6 years. No replacement available and needed otherwise cannot be used by children and therefore will not have a classroom.
- 2nd high level. R&M issue is toilets – did not carry out works as could not guarantee that sch could carry costs
- Mouchel condition survey attached showing both issues as priority costs in year 1

Sch upset about being asked to re-submit when did so by the deadline and that SFA didn't pass on information. If clawed back will put school in deficit position. Internal issue now resolved.

3. Lancot Lower

Info from Keith Armstead– Senior Education Officer (Planning)

Sch rec'd capital grant for dining room £62,640 40% of cost, sch required to fund balance

Information from School

Sch submitted 3 versions of its budget showing the effect if the surplus balance is clawed back.

1. no clawback, surplus of £55K in 10/11, deficit of £852 in 11/12
2. with clawback of £69,855 deficit 10/11 of £14,660, 11/12 of 370,708 grows each year
3. with clawback and reduced staffing of (2 p/t teachers & 7 LSA's on fixed term contracts in 11/12, deficit of £14,660 in 10/11, £13,144 in 11/12 returning to surplus in 12-13.

Ofsted stressed need to improve pupil's progress in writing and SIP report emphasised need to plan for prior attainment of different groups. To achieve these employed additional LSA's and 2 p/t teachers.

During dining room build, problem with soakaways emerged requiring remedial work at cost of £7K

Sch were going to use revenue for dining room but as had unspent FC would not be permitted under the Scheme for Financing Schools, therefore Sch decided to address concerns of Ofsted and SIP. Two bound documents of schools evidence submitted.

4. St Christopher's Lower

Health & Safety Issues – Oven

Oven identified as being unrepairable due to age 20 yrs old and not compliant with present health & safety standards.

Oven is property of the school

Drains – Boys Toilets

Refurbished by Mouchel 15 yrs ago, constant problems. No plans showing drainage system Beds CC, Mouchel or CBC unable to find information.

Builders caused damage to outside drain laid by Mouchel not on any school plans, requiring by-pass drain to be installed lifting boys toilet floor.

No insurance claim as damage caused by builders. Contract with builders did not cover damaged drain as outside the building.

Sch have submitted photographs of the main boy's toilets, they planned for expenditure in last financial year but due to complications it was delayed. Sch has had major delays due to series of issues, toilets not draining unable to locate source of problem building work could not start until area dried out

Governors decided to refurbish as only little more than replacing floor. Work due to start Oct half term if funds clawed back then work cannot be done and toilets closed due to H&S reasons.

Unlikely that sch will have any balance C/F to 11/12. Quotations for building works and invoices for catering equipment supplied.

5. Eaton Bray Lower

Info from Keith Armstead – Senior Education Officer (Planning)

- Met with sch and confirmed that in comparison with current guidelines, sch were below anticipated floor area for a sch of its current size therefore provision of some additional floor space justified.
- Not supportive of any request to increase sch's admission no. since could not be justified in terms of anticipated future need.

SFA spoke to Sch, will need to transfer revenue funds to capital (Direct Revenue Financing) at year end have been saving for a couple of years, current budget shows £85K DRF

Information from School

- Photos of extension currently being built, new classroom for increased numbers and extended library with quiet meeting area.
- Copies of application for new build inc. costs & reasons, suitability survey showing need for space.
- Minutes from Governing Body
- Orders/invoices for new equipment for new classroom

Saved money for two years, making cutbacks in all areas and completed fund raising events in order to achieve project.

6. Tithe Farm Lower

Sch is having extensive building works as part of transformational PCP grant to CBC. Sch required to contribute £50K towards project.

Building work includes relocate kitchen, library, ICT suite, offices for HT/Office manager/site agent/office staff/toilets/medical room/staff area/staff room/PPA room/toilets & cloakrooms.

Also renew heating & plumbing systems, installation of lift and other measures to meet fire regs.

£50k from school for improving/refurbishing children's play equip/gardens/playgrounds/

fencing to pool /play equip & houses/planters/

pond/garden/woodland area/ seating & fencing and shaded areas.

Project has slipped twice due to CBC difficulties with funding and ending contract with Mouchel.

Work that was due to start 09-10 put back until 10-11 finally agreed on 6/4/10 by CBC's executive. Building work due to start before Christmas.

Sch able to find money due to understaffing in 08-10. Sch now fully staffed and if funds clawed back would not be able to find minimum contribution.

Sch in discussions with HR regarding likelihood of redundancies in 11-12.

£5K for extended schools includes £3400 which each Houghton Regis sch is paying towards two PSA's to be employed to March 31st 2010.

Finance person off sick since Jan 09, received bills for £3500 very late from Mouchel some dating back to 2009. New finance staff in place who have been on training and attend finance seminars

7. Husborne Crawley Lower

Sch submitted information regarding the nature of the sch buildings; grade II listed building, owned by Duke of Bedford both mean any building works take extra time.

Building project began in 2007, started in 2009. Building company went into liquidation prior to completion.

- Sch planned building re-decoration for past 3 years but unable to start. Estimate £8K.
- Windows & doors need replacing/repairing across sch
- Plans for covered area for foundation stage outside cost £4k
- Extensive remedial repairs to outside wall held off until capital project completed. Cost £2600 invoice submitted with evidence.
- Small reception class in 09/10 sch held funds to support and building does not allow for classes to be grouped together.
- P/t teacher left Autumn 09 not replaced at the time, teacher employed p/t fixed term contract.
- H/T returned from mat leave during 09/10 on 0.6 with senior teacher stepping up to assistant h/t. Under constant review.

Copies of minutes from Finance Committee submitted

Schools finance queried with Keith Armstead the Senior Education Officer (Planning) why if the building was rented would the school be responsible for its maintenance. He suspects that the lease is a full repairing lease where the tenant is fully responsible for such repairs. Similarly, if it is grade II listed, it is likely that the repairs will be more expensive than usual.

8. Stanbridge Lower

Letter from HT23/9/10 – balance to be spent:-

- Across year groups supporting single year groups. Employed 2 teachers (job share) for 1 year on UPS to ensure standards of attainment and progress remains strong. High % of pupils from travellers background(40% of learners)
- 5 year plan indicates surplus will decrease and single year groups not sustainable and would not be viable, split year groups would be re-introduced. Temp contracts would discontinue.
- Contingency for 10/11 £9,033 within limits and not expected to increase.

If £10K clawed back would put budget into deficit