
Meeting: Schools Forum
Date: 7 March 2011
Subject: Schools Specific Contingency Budget
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Summary: To provide an update on the use of the Schools Specific Contingency Budget for 2010/11 and to propose the level for 2011/12.

Contact Officer: Dawn Hill, Technology House, Bedford

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

Reason for urgency
(if appropriate)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. To note the School Specific Contingency position statement as at February 2011.**
- 2. To propose for 2011/12 the General Contingency be set at £500,000 and SEN Contingency £275,670**

Background

- The Schools Specific Contingency Budget falls under Schedule 2 of The School Finance Regulations 2008. 'Classes or descriptions of planned expenditure prescribed for the purposes of the Schools budget of a Local Authority which may be deducted from it to determine the Individual Schools Budget' (top slice Direct Schools Grant – DSG).
- At the Central Bedfordshire School Forum on 8th March 2010, the following budgets were agreed:
 - £500,000 General Contingency
 - £275,670 SEN Contingency plus £205,058 to finance the shift of funding between the two new authorities arising from the Special Schools Funding Formula review. This is the final payment to Bedford Borough and thereafter the new national formula for DSG distribution will be in place. The recurrent budget of £275,670 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.

3. Total Budget agreed for 2010/11 is £980,728.
The School Contingency carry forward from 2009/10, as at 31st March 2010 is £873,843 which is split into General (£585,638) and SEN Contingency (£288,205).
4. The General Contingency budget can be utilised to fund the following:
- Rent and Joint Use equalisation charges;
 - Rates adjustments that have arisen from re-valuations or an adjustment to original formula;
 - Lease/planning permission associated with curriculum classes;
 - Adjustment to Formula i.e. floor area, teacher threshold, NQT, additional pupil numbers;
 - Contribution to part fund the administration of License Deficit Schools;
 - DSG shortfall;
 - Closing Schools;
 - Redundancy / Safeguarding costs where budget led;
 - Funding of exceptional circumstances, the Director of Children's Services can authorise sums up to £10,000 in respect of any one school in a financial year.

General Contingency Expenditure to Date

5. The following table sets out the spend against the General contingency.

	BUDGET £	SPEND £	BALANCE £
Carry Forward from 2009/10	585,638		
Budget Allocation 2010/11	500,000		
Floor Area Adjustments		(24,944)	
Lump Sum Adjustment		(7,915)	
Pupil Headcount Adjustment		(39,270)	
Rates Adjustments		534,336	
Rent and Joint Use		3,365	
Additional Pupil Numbers (4%)		(164,306)	
LD Schools		(30,000)	
DSG Adjustment		(219,888)	
Balance relating to closing school		2,043	
Redundancy/Safeguarding Salaries		(534,383)	
Interest Received		98	
Total General Contingency	1,085,638	(480,864)	604,774

6. The detail on the spend is as follows –

- Floor Area adjustments to the initial allocation of SBS
- Lump sum adjustment as agreed by School Forum for St Vincent School
- Adjustment to pupil funding relating to revised school capacity

- Rates adjustments that have arisen from revaluations/ rates relief
- Equalisation of costs relating to rent
- Adjustment to funding relating to additional pupil numbers
- Contribution to the administration of License Deficit Schools as agreed by School Forum
- DSG Adjustment
- Balance of deficit relating to the transfer of the Academy
- Safeguarding and redundancy costs where budget led
- Interest received from closing bank account

SEN Contingency Expenditure to Date

7. It was resolved at the September 2007 School Forum meeting that the former Rainbow School budget would be ring fenced for Special Education Needs and would include growth bids for the period 2008/09 to 2010/11. This would include :-

- A growth in Behavioural Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) provision
- Revised formula for Special Schools
- Additional and alternative models of specialist provision within mainstream schools
- Additional support to mainstream schools:-
 - i. Specialist support services and BESD services
 - ii. Special Schools Outreach
 - iii. Commissioned support

8. The following table sets out the spend against the SEN contingency:-

	BUDGET £	COMMITMENT £	BALANCE £
Carry Forward from 2009/10	288,205		
Budget Allocation 2010/11	480,728		
Redundancy costs		(139,180)	
SEN Support costs		(2,901)	
Savings Lump Sum Closing School		58,007	
Contribution to Out of County Placements		(350,000)	
Total General Contingency	768,933	(434,074)	334,859

9. It should be noted that the £205,058 to finance the shift of funding between the two new authorities will not be paid in 2010/11. The expected commitment in relation to Outreach work and the deficit on the closing school is approximately £112K.

Recommendations

10. It is recommended that the General Contingency should remain at £500,000 and SEN £275,670 for the 2011/12 financial year.
11. The SEN Contingency is the former allocation to Rainbow School (now closed), where it was agreed that the funding would be retained for SEN provision and predominantly pays for Outreach work.

Appendices:

None