
Meeting: Schools Forum

Date: 20 June 2011

Subject: School Forum Budget

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services

Summary: To provide an update on the School Forum Budget for 2011/12 and to propose a work session for the impending National Consultation.

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 Forum position statement as at 27th May 2011.**
- 2. To propose the School Forum budget be utilised for the provision of training and feedback to the National School Funding Consultation.**

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 7th March 2011 that a budget of £3,000 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 2010/11, as at 31st March 2011 is £3,650, which is carried forward to 2011/12.

Expenditure to Date

4. It was resolved at the School Forum meeting of the 7th March 2011 that Central Bedfordshire would remain a member of the F40 Group, representing the lowest funded Local Authorities.
5. The following table sets out the expenditure to date against the School Forum Budget.

	BUDGET £	SPEND £	BALANCE £
Carry Forward from 2010/11	3,650		
Budget Allocation 2011/12	3,000		
F40 Subscription		(1,000)	
Total General Contingency	6,650	(5,650)	5,650

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that the School Forum budget is utilised to commission a Consultant to review the impact of the proposals of the impending National School Funding Review and Academies funding review, provide training and updates and a forum for a final group response.

Appendices:

None