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**Meeting:** Schools Forum  
**Date:** 5 March 2012  
**Subject:** Schools Specific Contingency Budget  
**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services  
**Summary:** To update the Schools Forum on the use of the Schools Contingency Budget for 2011/12 and recommend the Budget for 2012/13.

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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 January 2012.**
- 2. To propose the General Contingency Budget to be set at £500,000 and the SEN Contingency £275,670 for 2012/13.**

#### **Background**

1. 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 (ISB)' (top slice Direct Schools Grant – DSG).
2. At the Central Bedfordshire School Forum on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011, the following budgets were agreed:
  - £500,000 General Contingency plus a further £1,000,000 in anticipation of the cost of redundancies in schools during 2011/12.
  - £275,670 SEN Contingency.

Total School Contingency Budget agreed for 2011/12 is £1,775,670.

3. The School Contingency carry forward from 2010/11, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 was £1,061,547 which is split into General (£845,708) and SEN Contingency (£215,839).
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;
  - DSG shortfall;
  - Closing Schools;
  - Redundancy costs where applicable
  - 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. It was resolved at the School Forum meetings of the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011 that:-
  - DSG received from Bedford Borough for sole registered PRU pupils would be transferred to the Central PRU Budget
  - An additional £45 per statutory pupil be transferred to Schools
6. The following table sets out the expenditure to date against the General contingency.

	<b>BUDGET £</b>	<b>SPEND £</b>	<b>BALANCE £</b>
Carry Forward from 2010/11	845,708		
Budget Allocation 2011/12	1,500,000		
Floor Area Adjustments		(18,195)	
Rent Adjustments		(2,309)	
Rates Adjustments		20,714	
Lump Sum		(7,915)	
ISB Adjustments		(1,190,971)	
Legal Fees		(753)	
EYSFF		(196,913)	
Admissions		(665)	
Early Years Extended Offer		373,607	
Redundancy		(504,540)	
Unspent DSG supporting Central Services		455,200	
4% Threshold Pupil Numbers		(323,363)	
Misc		(30,322)	
<b>Total General Contingency</b>	<b>2,345,708</b>	<b>(1,426,425)</b>	<b>919,283</b>

6. The detail on the spend is as follows -
- Floor Area adjustments to the initial allocation of SBS.
  - Equalisation of Rental costs
  - Rates adjustments that have arisen from revaluations/ rates relief.
  - Lump sum adjustment as agreed by School Forum for St Vincent School
  - Individual School Budget Adjustments
  - Legal Fees – School in Financial difficulty
  - Adjustment to allocation of Early Years Funding based on October headcount
  - Admissions responsibilities
  - Funding of the Early Years extended offer for 3 and 4 year olds funded by Standards Funds
  - Redundancy payments
  - Unspent central DSG returned to contingencies
  - Increase in Pupils numbers above the 4% threshold
  - Miscellaneous credits bank interest, accruals, closed cost centres
7. Expected commitments to end of financial year; redundancies approx £500K, EYSFF (Schools and PVI) and Rent and Rates equalisation at year end. Any unspent DSG will be Earmarked and carried forward to 2012/13.

### **SEN Contingency Expenditure to Date**

8. The SEN Contingency has been agreed to fund :
- 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
9. It was resolved at the School Forum meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 that the balance of SEN Contingency would be set aside to contribute to the cost of Central Bedfordshire children attending other Local Authority schools for 2011/12.
10. The following table sets out the expenditure to date against the SEN contingency.

	<b>BUDGET £</b>	<b>SPEND £</b>	<b>BALANCE £</b>
Carry Forward from 2010/11	215,839		
Budget Allocation 2011/12	275,670		
Out of County Placements		(200,000)	
Outreach		(137,594)	
Closing School		(£8,663)	
<b>Total SEN Contingency</b>	<b>491,509</b>	<b>(346,257)</b>	<b>145,252</b>

11. Expected commitments to the end of financial year include Outreach schools £62K, Language Provision £20K, Down's syndrome £7K, any balance being carried forward to 2012/13.

### **2012/13 Budget Proposal**

12. An additional £1M budget provision was set aside for 2011/12 in anticipation of an increase in redundancy payments. This is not expected to continue into 2012/13 and therefore the budget requirement can revert to that set in 2010/11, increasing the amount delegated to schools through the ISB for 2012/13.

### **Appendices:**

None