
Meeting: Schools Forum

Date: 26 November 2012

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 School Contingency Budget for 12/13 and propose the distribution of unspent Dedicated Schools Grant

Contact Officer: Dawn Hill, Technology House, Bedford

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. To note the School Contingency spend as at 31st October 2012.**
- 2. To propose an additional £50 per statutory pupil registered on the January 2012 census be transferred to Schools.**

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 5th March 2012, the following budgets were agreed:
 - £500,000 General Contingency
 - £275,670 SEN Contingency.

Total School Contingency Budget agreed for 2012/13 is £775,670.

3. The School Contingency carry forward from 2011/12, as at 31st March 2011 was £898,917 which is split into General (£818,999) and SEN Contingency (£79,918).
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 2012/13

5. The following table sets out the expenditure for 2012/13 against the School General contingency budget.

	BUDGET £	SPEND £	BALANCE £
Carry Forward from 2011/12	818,999		
Budget Allocation 2012/13	500,000		
Floor Area Adjustments		(47,939)	
Rent Adjustments		(10,021)	
Rates Adjustments		(37,998)	
Rate Relief (Academy converters)		181,894	
Legal Fees		(410)	
Redundancy		(139,278)	
Unspent DSG supporting Central Services		416,890	
Final DSG Adjustment (DfE)		14,152	
EYSFF Adjustment		(4,161)	
Interest		1,533	
Exceptional Circumstances		(19,200)	
Total General Contingency	1,318,999	(355,462)	1,674,461

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
- Rate Relief as a result of conversion to Academy status and attracting 80% rate relief
- Legal Fees – School in Financial difficulty
- Redundancy payments
- Unspent central DSG returned to contingencies
- Final DSG settlement, 4 additional pupils above estimation
- EYSFF adjustment to base data
- Interest from closing bank accounts
- Payments to two schools with Exceptional circumstances (increased responsibilities with new/extending schools)

SEN Contingency Expenditure 2012/13

7. The SEN Contingency had 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
8. The following table sets out the expenditure for 2012/13.

	BUDGET £	SPEND £	BALANCE £
Carry Forward from 2011/12	79,918		
Budget Allocation 2012/13	275,670		
Outreach		(66,422)	
Closing School		(82)	
Total SEN Contingency	355,588	(66,504)	289,084

Recommendations

1. To note the School Contingency spend to date
2. To propose an additional £50 per statutory pupil registered on the January 2012 census be transferred to Central Bedfordshire Maintained Schools as a one off payment in 2012/13. This has been made possible due to unspent centrally retained DSG and the reduction in forecasted expenditure.

Appendices:

None