

Meeting: Schools Forum

Date: 20 January 2014

Subject: School Forum Budget

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

Summary: To provide an update on the use of the School Forum Budget for 2013/14 and propose the level of the 2014/15 budget.

Contact Officer: Dawn Hill, Priory House, Shefford

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. To note the School Forum spend to 31st December 2013.**
- 2. To propose the 2014/15 budget for servicing the School Forum be set at the 2013/14 level of £3,000.**

Background

- The School Forum Budget falls under Schedule 2 of The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013. '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' – 'establishment and maintenance of, and consultation with, Schools Forums'. Any deduction must not exceed the amount deducted for the previous funding period.
- A budget of £3,000 for 2013/14 has been set for costs associated with the operation of the Forum, with the continued membership of the F40 group and £2,000 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.

Expenditure 2013/14

- The following table sets out the expenditure to 31st December 2013:

	BUDGET £	SPEND £	BALANCE £
Budget Allocation 2013/14	3,000		
Venue Hire/Refreshments		(456)	
F40 Subscription		(1,000)	
Total	3,000	(1,456)	1,544

Budget Allocation 2014/15

4. In accordance with The School and Early Years Finance Regulations, deductions to the Schools budget of a Local Authority for central services (Part 1, Schedule 2) must not exceed that of the previous funding period. It is also a requirement of the School Forum Regulations that central spend on servicing of Schools Forum are proposed by the LA but the decision making powers rests with the School Forum. The Department for Education role is to adjudicate where School Forum does not agree the LA proposal.
5. The LA proposes that the 2014/15 budget for serving the schools forum remains at the 2013/14 level of £3,000, with the continued membership of F40. Any unspent funding at the end of the financial year added back into the funding formula for the benefit of all schools in the following funding period.

Appendices:

None