

Schools Forum

21st October 2014

Schools Budget Position Update 2014/15

Introduction

1. This paper provides members of the Forum with the current projected outturn position on the Schools Budget based on information to the end of September 2014.

Background / Discussion

2. **Appendix 1** shows the planned spend against the projected outturn for 2014/15 on the Schools Budget as at 30th September 2014, in the prescribed DfE Section 251 reporting format. Overall, there is currently a £469k underspend forecast at the end of this financial year. The reasons for variances between planned and projected spend are: -
 - a. Line 1.0.1 Individual Schools Budget –£599k under budget the majority of which relates to disadvantaged 2 year olds. The variance is caused by less take up of places than anticipated at budget setting.
 - b. Line 1.2.1 Top-up funding maintained providers – Top-up costs are expected to be £180k overspent. This is a result of additional agreed place costs from maintained special Stockton schools and also additional agreed top-ups from both maintained and other local authority schools.
 - c. Line 1.2.2 Top-up funding Academies and Free Schools – Top-up costs are currently expected to be overspent by £60k. This is mainly additional agreed place costs not currently funded by the EFA.
 - d. Line 1.2.3 Top-up funding Independent Providers – Top-up costs are currently expected to be £20k underspent overall. However, this includes Agency Placements which are estimated to be £230k overspent resulting from additional placements, some of which are higher cost placements. This is offset by a projected £250k saving on post-16 top-ups based on current and predicted take up of places.
 - e. Line 1.4.5 Carbon Reduction Commitment Allowances. - £20k underspend due to a prior year adjustment.

- f. Line 1.4.10 Pupil Growth - £70k underspend. This is because there were only two cases that met the eligibility criteria for Growth Funding in 2014-15.
- 3. It should be noted that £500k of brought forward balance from 2013/14 has been utilised to support High Needs top ups. Members should note that this “one off” funding is being used to support the current level of top ups which are likely to be ongoing.
- 4. The above does not take account of £410k set aside from 2013/14 to support the initiatives agreed to increase take up of places by disadvantaged 2 year olds or the £529k the Forum agreed would remain uncommitted.
- 5. Any surplus or deficit on the Schools Budget supported by Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is carried forward to the following financial year. As such, this position will continue to be monitored and will need to be considered as part of the 2015/16 budget.

Recommendation

- 6. That the Schools Forum note the current financial position on the Schools Budget.

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