

Schools Forum

5th February 2019

Schools Budget Monitoring 2018/19

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 December 2018.

It is estimated that there will be a deficit of £2.405m by the end of this financial year. However, please note that this includes the overspend b/fwd from 2017/18 of £1.413m and it also takes account of the additional £454k High Needs funding for 2018/19 announced by the Government in December 2018.

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2. **Appendix 1** shows the revised budget against the projected outturn for 2018/19 on the Schools Budget as at 31st December, in the prescribed DfE Section 251 reporting format. The reasons for movement of £77k since the last reported position at the end of September are mainly due to :-
 - a. *Line 1.2.1 Top-up funding maintained providers* – Estimated increased overspend of £104k mainly due to additional top-ups to SBC maintained schools.
 - b. *Line 1.2.3 Top-up funding Independent Providers* - The projected additional costs of £455k relate to unbudgeted costs of excluded pupils, home tuition and independent assessments and therapy sessions (£250k) plus additional Agency placement costs (£205k).
 - c. *Line 1.7.1 Dedicated Schools Grant* – In December 2018 the DfE announced an additional £125m for LA's in England in both 2018/19 and 2019/20 in recognition of High Needs pressures. The funding allocated to SBC for 2018/19 is £453,500.
3. The overall position is considered in the Schools Budget Report 2019/20 which is also on the agenda of today's Forum meeting.
4. Please note that the DfE require a report from any local authority that has a DSG deficit of more than 1% as at 31 March 2019. The DfE undertook a short consultation with LA's during the autumn of 2018 about the detailed implementation of these new requirements and will provide a response to the consultation and further guidance in early 2019.

Recommendation

5. That the Schools Forum note the current financial position on the schools budget.

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