

Schools Forum

19th January 2021

Schools Budget Monitoring 2020/21

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 2020.

It is estimated that there will be a deficit of £5.63m by the end of this financial year. However, please note that this includes the overspend brought forward from 2019/20 of £4.424m.

School Budget

2. **Appendix 1** shows the revised budget against the projected outturn for 2020/21 on the Schools Budget as at 31st December 2020, in the prescribed DfE Section 251 reporting format. The reasons for the reduction in projected overspend of £106k since the last reported position at the end of September are mainly:-
 - a. *Line 1.0.1 Individual Schools Budget (before Academy Recoupment)* – £500k projected saving on Early Years funding based on estimated take-up for spring 2021 being at least at spring 2020 levels. However, please note that some of this may be required to support Early Years provision in the summer term 2021 given the current circumstances regarding Covid-19.
 - b. *Line 1.1.1 Contingencies (de-delegation)* – £19k saving as contingency budget for potential formula errors currently unlikely to be required.
 - c. *Line 1.2.1 Top-up funding maintained providers* – Estimated increased overspend of £118k mainly due to additional top-ups to maintained schools (£76k) and additional transport costs to the PRU (£42k).
 - d. *Line 1.2.2 Top-up Funding-Academies and Free Schools* – £428k additional top-ups to SBC and out of area mainstream and special academies.
 - e. *Line 1.2.3 Top-up funding Independent Providers* – £120k additional Agency placement costs.

- f. *Line 1.2.6 Hospital education services* – £20k saving relating to the implementation of the central Home and Hospital Education Service.
 - g. *Line 1.2.7 Other AP Provision* – £210k saving on implementation of Pathway Development Centres as agreements are not yet all in place.
3. The position is considered further in the School Budget Report for 2021/22 also on today's agenda.

Recommendation

- 4. That the Schools Forum note the current financial position on the school's budget.

Andy Bryson
Chief Accountant