

AGENDA ITEM 5

REPORT TO SCHOOLS FORUM

10th OCTOBER
2023

SCHOOLS BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2023/24

SUMMARY

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 2023.
2. As you will recall from previous reports the 2023/24 High Needs budget was set anticipating an in-year saving of £1.1m. However, based on a review of and increased expenditure on High Needs at quarter 2 (outlined below) it is now expected that this target will not be met. Instead, an in-year saving of £352k is now expected which will reduce the cumulative deficit b/fwd from 2022/23 of £3.87m down to £3.51m instead of the budgeted position of £2.7m. This revised position will be reflected in the medium term financial plan.

RECOMMENDATION

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

School Budget

4. **Appendix 1** shows the revised budget against the projected outturn for 2023/24 on the Schools Budget as at 30th September, in the prescribed DfE Section 251 reporting format. The reasons for significant variances between planned and projected spend are: -
 - a. *Additional HN Funding - This is additional HN Block funding which was not allocated when the budget was initially set. Some of this funding has now been allocated with the remaining £853k being used to support the increased costs identified below in lines 1.2.2 and 1.2.3.*
 - b. Line 1.2.2 Top-up funding – academies, free schools and colleges – Anticipated £199k overspend resulting from an increase in the requirement to place pupils in out of area schools.
 - c. *Line 1.2.3 Top-up and other funding – non-maintained and independent providers - Anticipated £1.4m overspend. This reflects the increasing number of pupils requiring placement in high cost*

Independent Special School provision, including a number staying on post-16. This also includes some package changes, fee increases and backdated payments.

5. There will be a High Needs update report presented to the November Schools Forum.
6. Any surplus or deficit on the Schools Budget supported by Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is carried forward to the following financial year.

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