

# ANNEX B

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
SCHOOLS FORUM

28 November 2012

Agenda Item

6

## APPROVAL OF CENTRALLY-RETAINED BUDGETS

Report of the Director of Education and Early Intervention

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### 1. Purpose and Recommendations

1.1 This matter is one on which all members of Forum are entitled to vote.

1.2 The Forum is asked:

- (i) To agree for 2013-14 the central budgets listed in Table 1 in section 3;
- (ii) To note the savings identified in section 4;
- (iii) To note a further request will be made in January for the costs of determining Free School Meals eligibility for Early Years pupils

### 1. Background

1.1 The Schools Forum has a number of specific powers regarding non High Needs central expenditure under the new regulations. These include agreeing the continuation of the remaining non High Needs central budgets.

1.2 At its last meeting The Forum agreed to the de-delegation of the budget for the Growth Fund for additional places and infant class size protection and also agreed in principle to the de-delegation of certain items.

1.3 This paper considers the other non-High Needs central budgets. These fall under the following headings:

- a. Admissions
- b. Servicing of Schools Forums
- c. Carbon Reduction Allowances
- d. Capital Expenditure Funded from Revenue

- e. Termination of Employment Costs
  - f. Combined Services (including budgets previously under the miscellaneous heading in S251)
  - g. Payment of fees for pupils without SEN in Independent Schools
  - h. Expenditure determining free school meals eligibility for early years pupils
- 2013-14 budgets for Items d,e,f have to relate to previous commitments. For items a to f central expenditure in 2013-14 cannot be higher than it was in 2012-13.

1.4 The authority is requesting that the majority of these budgets continue in 2013-14. Section 3 below gives details of each budget which the authority is asking the Forum to agree for 2013-14, save for those in relation to Admissions and Capital Expenditure Funded from Revenue, which are dealt with in separate papers elsewhere on this agenda. This is because of the scale, complexity and significance of those items.

## 2. Central Budgets Requested for Continuation

2.1 Table 1 below summarises the 2013-14 budgets that the Forum is asked to

Table 1:

		£000
Carbon Reduction Allowance		1055
Combined Services	-Family Support Workers	891
	-Head of Virtual School	78
	-KCLE	250
Combined Services (Miscellaneous items)	-School workforce Census	15
	-Education of Children in Residential Care	61
	-Mobiles and other premises	100
Boarding Pathfinder		52
Servicing of Schools Forum		123
Total		2625

The remainder of this section gives further details about these budgets.

### 2.2 Carbon Reduction Allowances – Proposed Budget £1.055m

These allowances are in effect a tax levied on the authority in respect of carbon emissions from its premises. The authority's premises are deemed by the Government to include all Hertfordshire state schools, including academies. The proposed budget for 2013-14 of £1.055m is the same as in 2012-13 and relates to schools carbon emissions. (Schools generate 79% of all carbon emissions the county council is responsible for). The actual school related spend in 2011-12 was £950k and as the charge for emissions, of £12

per tonne in 2011-12, is expected to continue until the end of 2013-14, it is possible that this budget may slightly underspend. However, the level of emissions can vary between years. Also there is expected to be a substantial increase in the charge per tonne for emissions in 2014-15. Given the current DfE position that the budget cannot be increased between years it would be prudent to maintain the budget at its current level.

### 2.3 Combined Services (excluding former miscellaneous items) – Proposed Budget £1.219

This proposed budget is the same as for 2012-13 and comprises three elements

- a. Contribution to Funding Family Support Workers £891k  
This provides funding to local partnerships for family support workers. It does not meet the full cost and, at its last meeting, the Forum agreed in principle that the balance of funding would be met by de-delegation/academy contributions.
  
- b. Head of Virtual School for Children Looked After (CLA) £78k  
The post of Education Lead for the Virtual School has been financially supported to provide the link between the Virtual School and all Hertfordshire schools in the work to improve academic outcomes and standards for this vulnerable group. Over the two year period that the Virtual School has been in place the numbers of pupils making significant progress has increased. There have been increases in the quality and quantity of the Personal Education Plans and the numbers of Designated Teachers attending training, actively supporting focus groups and other Virtual School events.  
  
The post is currently held by an ex-Head teacher from a Hertfordshire secondary school. The new Ofsted guidance is now clear about the inclusion of CLA in the inspection framework and schools have welcomed the support of the Virtual School and the Education Lead in particular to help them to share best practice. The Virtual School is at a critical stage in development and reduction of funding for this post would drastically reduce the effectiveness of the work with schools.
  
- c. Keeping Children in Local Education (KCLE) £250k  
This budget was agreed by the Forum at its February 2012 meeting and the details of the KCLE project were included in a report to that meeting.

### 2.4 Combined Services (former miscellaneous items) Proposed Budget £0.176m

- a. School Workforce Census £15k

The School Workforce Census is a statutory collection of individual level data on teachers and support staff from local authorities, local authority-maintained schools and academies.

This £15k budget contributes towards the cost of the central Data Collection team (£6k) and School IT Systems Support (SITSS, £9k) to support Hertfordshire schools prepares and submit the statutory annual data collection for School Workforce Census.

If this budget were not available SITSS would need to increase its annual SIMS support contract charges to schools to meet the shortfall. Data Collection team would need to reduce the support that is provided to schools and it is likely that they would only be able to comply with the minimum requirements for the DfE's Census. For example, schools would be expected to upload the Census files themselves as is the case in many other authorities. Data quality would inevitably suffer as there would be less time to carry out the usual data quality assurance checks. Any reduction in the support that schools get through SITSS is also likely to increase the difficulties in the data collection process.

- b. Funding for the education of children in residential care in Hertfordshire - £61k.

These young people are often out of education for long periods and do not easily fit into existing Hertfordshire provision. Given how hard these children are to place in school and the very low outcomes that they have on reaching school leaving age, a specialist approach has been adopted to improve achievement, attendance and transition post 16.

The budget funds a part time Education Adviser working only with the children from the residential homes in Hertfordshire and also funds additional resource at the North Herts Secondary Centre (NHSC). The NHESC combined with the Virtual School provides a resource to meet the specific needs of this group of children. The project is called 'Bridge 29'. It is based in a set of rooms, close to the NHESC and managed by the Head Teacher.

The project outcomes and the impact of the Education Adviser have been very successful in terms of increased attendance in education, outcome in both GCSE passes and other qualifications and in the aspirations that the young people have for themselves.

*The number of CLA who sat GCSE's in 2010 = 1*

*The number of CLA who sat GCSE's in 2011 = 7. Between 1 and 5 GCSEs achieved*

*The number of children due to sit GCSEs in 2012 = 8 of 9 students. Between 3 and 8 GCSEs passed. All achieved English and mathematics GCSE passes  
Current attendance level at 80% overall for students in statutory education*

c. Mobiles and other Premises £100k

This budget would fund the cost of storing mobile classrooms, in order to facilitate their redeployment between sites, and also other exceptional premises costs.

2.5 Payment of Fees to Independent Schools for Pupils without SEN – Boarding Pathfinder - Proposed budget £52k

The Boarding Pathfinder Project is a national scheme that has been promoted to all local authorities by both the last and current governments to offer an alternative way to support disadvantaged children and families in crisis. Only a very small number of children meet the criteria for this support.

The Boarding Pathfinder has an annual budget of £52k. Once children are placed, the annual cost to support their attendance up until the end of year 11, forms part of the overall yearly expenditure. Therefore, only a maximum of 3 children could ever be placed at any one time.

Currently this funding is supporting one child @ £18,510 per year. She is currently in year 9 and the funding should be retained to preserve the commitment to this child's education until her year 11 is completed. At present no other children have been identified as likely to benefit from this scheme but this position could change at any time. Therefore it is proposed to retain the existing £52k budget.

2.6 Expenditure Determining Free School Meals Eligibility for Early Years Pupils

We are not yet in a position to identify the cost of this activity. It relates to determining eligibility for the free 2-yr-old care offer, which will be assessed relative to the criteria that would be used for Free School Meals, were such children to be old enough to be eligible for them. The DfE have recently confirmed that it will be for the LA to carry out the required eligibility checking, and officers are in discussions internally round how this will be done and at what cost. Forum in January will be asked to agree a figure for this item.

2.7 Servicing of Schools Forum Proposed Budget £123k

This comprises the budgets for support for the Schools Forum by County Council officers plus venue costs.

### 3. Central Budgets to be discontinued

- 3.1 A number of other existing Hertfordshire central budgets will cease under the new school funding arrangements. These are as follows:

#### Termination of Employment Costs

This budget of £313k supports the costs of redundancies in connection with certain school re-organisations. In 2013-14 this budget will be restricted to funding historic commitments. There are not expected to be any historic commitments carried forward to 2013-14 and therefore it is proposed to discontinue this budget.

- 3.2 Payment of Fees to Independent Schools for Pupils without SEN- Boarding School Fees.

This budget of £18k, separate from the Boarding Pathfinder, was established to provide support for individual pupils at independent schools where a dramatic change in family circumstances meant that the family could no longer pay the fees, despite the pupil being at a critical stage of their education. There was no expenditure in 2011-12 and it is proposed to discontinue this budget.

- 3.3 Combined Services (former miscellaneous items)

It is intended to delete several minor budgets under this heading, totalling £40k. £100k of the current provision of £140k in relation to the climate change advisers will be reused for other building-related costs such as the storage of mobiles and other revenue costs incurred by the provision of mobiles to schools which it would not be reasonable to expect governing bodies to pay for. The £40k balance of the climate change adviser's budget would constitute an additional saving.

- 3.4 The overall saving generated is £411k. This resource becomes available to be recycled elsewhere in the schools budget.

The saving comprises the following elements:

Discontinuation of Termination of Employment budget	£313k
Boarding School Fees budget	£18k
Saving from budget for Climate Change Advisors	£40k
Discontinued miscellaneous items	£40k
Total	£411k

#### **4. Recommendations:**

4.1 This matter is one on which all members of Forum are entitled to vote.

The Forum is asked:

1. To agree for 2013-14 the central budgets listed in Table 1 in section 3.
2. To note the savings identified in section 4.
3. To note a further request will be made in January for the costs of determining Free School Meals eligibility for Early Years pupils.

**Extract from the minutes of the Schools Forum meeting of November 2012 covering item 6.**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM**

**Wednesday, 28 November 2012**

**Ash Room, Robertson House, Stevenage**

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>Chair</b>	Alan Gray
<b>School Members</b>	Richard Haynes (Vice-Chair), Karen James, Paul Johnson, Dave Victor, Christine Hall, Alisdair Skinner, Rob Staples, Gaenor Morris, Paul Rosen, Ian Morris, Michael Taylor, Alison Saunders, Nick Daymond, Liz Hitch, Brian Frederick, Sue Sheffield
<b>Non- School Members</b>	Terry Douris, Zoe Hancock, Toni Finkel
<b>Observers</b>	Frances Button,
<b>Substitutes</b>	David Shaylor, Peter Coldwell, Sherie Hart
<b>Officers</b>	Simon Newland, Cheryl Faint, Jonathan Burberry, Stewart Martin, Stuart Elwick, Lin O'Brien, Debbie Orton, Sheelagh Sullivan
<b>Other Non-Members</b>	Mark Watkin, John Grubb, Aneurin Hathway
<b>Apologies:</b>	Sue Howe, Denisse Skewis,

**1. Announcements of Appointments and Elections of Members**

Gaenor Morris, Paul Rosen, and Michael Taylor were introduced as proposed Primary and Secondary maintained schools governor representatives.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising**

Minutes from meeting held on 3 October were agreed as an accurate record. It was noted that new Terms of Reference were now planned to come to the 9th January meeting.

**5. Approval of Centrally-retained Budgets**

Proposals for continued central retention of a number of centrally-retained budgets were considered by Forum. Following discussion:

- (i) Forum agreed for 2013/14 central budgets listed in Table 1 to the value of £2.625m
- (ii) Forum noted the savings identified in Section 4.



- (iii) Forum noted a further request will be made in January for the costs of determining Free School Meals eligibility for Early Years pupils.