HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM

15 January 2020

AGENDA ITEM

5

SCHOOLS BUDGET 2020-21

Report of the Director of Children's Services

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1 Purpose

1.1 To seek the support of the Forum for the 2020-21 Schools Budget proposals.

2 Summary

- 2.1 This paper covers the issues relating to the 2020-21 Schools Budget and in particular the following areas:
 - The 2020-21 DSG announcement;
 - The budget pressures and savings;
 - The amount of available headroom.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Forum is asked:
- 3.1.1 To note the revised budget position.
- 3.1.2 To agree that the additional resource in the schools' block budget (comprising the schools' inflation and headroom allocations) should be allocated to schools as outlined in section 6.2.
- 3.1.3 To agree the revised central budget for licenses, as set out in section 10.

4 Background

4.1 Previous reports about the 2020-21 Schools Budget were considered at the September and November Forum meetings. The DfE has now announced the 2020-21 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the data to be used to calculate 2020-21 budget shares for primary and secondary schools and academies, under the school funding formula. This, together with the updated information on budget

- pressures and savings, enables decisions to be made regarding the Schools Budget for 2020-21.
- 4.2 Information on primary and secondary budget shares for 2020-21 must be submitted to the DfE by 21st January 2020. For this to be provided on schedule, it is necessary for detailed decisions to be made at this point about the Schools Block of the 2020-21 Schools Budget.

5 Dedicated Schools Grant Announcement 2020-21

5.1 The 2020-21 DSG was announced just before Christmas and is as follows;

Schools Block	£m
Primary 99856.50 FTE pupils @ £4104.29 per pupil	409.840
Secondary 69650 FTE pupils @ £5261.19 per pupil	366.442
Premises	10.618
Growth	6.305
Total schools block	793.205

Central School Services Block	£m
169506.50 FTE pupils @ £34.14 per pupil	5.787

Early Years Block	£m
3 and 4 Year olds - Universal entitlement 19332.13 PTE pupils	
@ £3112.20 per pupil	60.165
3 and 4 Year olds - Additional hours 6901.28 PTE pupils @	
£3112.20 per pupil	21.478
Nursery schools supplementary funding	1.769
2 Year olds 2197.05 PTE pupils @ £3243.30 per pupil	7.126
EY Pupil Premium	0.691
EY Disability Access Fund	0.253
Total early years block	91.482

High Needs Block	£m
Provisional High Needs Allocation	131.479

Total	1,021.953

- These allocations are subject to future adjustments to the early years block to take account of census data from January 2020 and January 2021 and to the high needs block to update the import/export adjustment for the January 2020 census. The figures include the funding for academies and post-16 high needs places in special schools. However, they exclude the per place funding for non-maintained special schools, which is paid directly to institutions. The schools block of DSG is ring-fenced for use on the schools' block budget.
- 5.3 Schools Block

The schools block DSG allocation is calculated using the National Funding Formula (NFF). However, due to the timescale, the DfE does not recalculate the NFF budget shares using 2020-21 data. The schools block is calculated using average funding rates per pupil (for primary and secondary), derived from the NFF allocations published in the autumn and based on 2019-20 data. These per pupil funding rates are then multiplied by the pupil numbers from the October 2019 census to determine the schools block DSG.

The schools block is £0.949m less than previously estimated due to lower than projected pupil numbers. This is also reflected in a reduced cost of demography.

5.4 Central Services block

This is calculated by multiplying the total primary and secondary pupil numbers from the October 2019 census by the funding rate per pupil for the central services block. The actual allocation is £5k less than previously estimated, due to lower than projected pupil numbers.

5.5 Early Years block

There are a number of components of the early years block - allocations in respect of the universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds, additional hours for 3 and 4 year olds, protection funding for nursery schools, funding for 2 year olds, the Early Years Pupil Premium and the Disability Access Fund. The allocations shown are as per the DfE announcement (based on actual January 2019 pupil numbers).

The Early Years Block will be recalculated both in year and retrospectively to take account of actual early years' pupil numbers in the January 2020 and January 2021 censuses.

5.6 High Needs block

The high needs block allocation has been calculated using the national funding formula for high needs. There has been an increase of £581k in the high needs block (compared to the previously announced figure), due to updating with October 2019 census data. A further adjustment will be made to the 2020-21 high needs block allocation to update the import/export adjustment for the January 2020 census data.

6 Overall budget position

6.1 In addition to the impact of the DSG announcement outlined above there have been four other significant changes in the schools' block budget.

6.1.1 Samuel Ryder MFG protection

The DfE has agreed a baseline adjustment to Samuel Ryder's recoupment budget share, to bring it in line with the baseline used to calculate the academy's general annual grant (GAG). This baseline adjustment does not have an impact on the

funding that Samuel Ryder receives but has freed up approximately £2.1m of MFG protection (currently returned to the DfE).

6.1.2 Impact of updated data

The schools block budget has been updated with the latest pupil numbers and other data. This has resulted in changes to the pressures and savings, including a reduction of £0.6m in rates and a reduction of £0.4m in MFG protection (other than the Samuel Ryder saving mentioned above)

6.1.3 Private Finance Initiative (PFI) factor

There is a new pressure of £150k to fund the change in the PFI factor.

6.1.4 Reduced use of carry forward

The amount of carry forward to be used to support the schools block in 2020-21 has been reduced by £0.9m. This is due to a reduction in the estimated amount of available carry forward (as outlined below).

- 6.2 In the schools block, after taking account of the updated data, the amount of additional resource available for budget shares (inflation and headroom) is £29.2m (an increase of £2m from the amount estimated at the November Forum). Forum is asked to confirm that this additional resource will be used in full. Proposals for this are included within the report on this agenda about the primary and secondary schools funding formula.
- 6.3 In the high needs block the additional resource from the extra DSG, together with a small reduction in the budget pressure in respect of colleges, results in a headroom amount of £1.9m.

7 Use of DSG Carry forward

The latest monitor for 2019-20 indicates a projected overspend (excluding DSG changes) of £1.7m. Thus, the updated estimate of the amount of carry forward available for 2020-21 is as follows, which is £0.5m less than previously forecast:

Estimated carry forward available for 2020-21	£m
Remaining balance of carry forward from 2018-19	14.653
Additional 2019-20 DSG carry forward to 2020-21	0.034
Carry forward of DSG to 2020-21	14.687
2019-20 variance identified so far: - Underspend from November 2019 monitor £0.833m - Exclude from this the £2.5m additional DSG from the retrospective early years DSG adjustment (already included in DSG carry forward figure) = overspend of £1.667m	-1.667
Total	13.020

- 7.1 The budget strategy for 2020-21, outlined in the budget reports to the September and November Forum meetings is as follows:
 - Setting the early years budget at the level of the early years DSG block, plus the use of £360k carry forward for the Early Years Transition Project.
 - Setting the high needs budget at the level of the high needs DSG block.
 - Setting the central school services budget at the level of the central school services DSG block, plus the use of £891k of DSG carry forward to fund school family workers and £138k of carry forward to fund the appeals service.
 - Setting the schools block budget at the level of the schools' block of DSG, plus the use of £1.9m carry forward to fund the Falling Rolls Fund and an element of the Growth Fund.
- 7.2 In view of the reduced amount of carry forward available it is intended to reduce the amount of carry forward supporting the schools block to £1m, which would resource the majority of the Falling Rolls Fund. The use of carry forward in the central services and early years blocks would be unchanged. The Schools Budget has been prepared on this basis.

Thus, the use of carry forward in 2020-21 would be follows:

Proposed use of carry forward in 2020-21	£m
Early Years Transition Project	0.360
Falling Rolls Fund	1.000
School Family Workers	0.891
Appeals Service	0.138
Total use of carry forward in 2020-21	2.389

Commitments against the carry forward for subsequent years are:

Proposed use of carry forward beyond 2020-21	£m
Early Years Transition Project	0.240
Use of underspend from de-delegated budgets	0.248
Total use of carry forward beyond 2020-21	0.488

On current projections, this would leave a DSG reserve of £10.1m, which is consistent with the policy of retaining a contingency of £10m.

8 Schools Budget Schedule

8.1 Annex A gives a breakdown of the budget showing the pressures, savings and headroom, by block. Annex B give further details of each budget item. These include the changes since the budget position considered at the November Forum meeting.

8.2 Additional resource – schools Block

The total additional resource in the schools' block budget is £29.2m (comprising the schools' inflation of £20.7m and the headroom of £8.5m). The separate paper on this agenda about the primary and secondary funding formula provides more details about how it is proposed to allocate this, following the consultation with schools.

8.3 Headroom – High Needs Block

The total amount of headroom available is £1.9m in the 2020-21 budget. This will be used to re-establish the Strategy Development Fund for new initiatives, and it is anticipated that it will be used to resource the new funding arrangements for complex needs in mainstream schools. A separate paper on this agenda covers the high needs budget in more detail.

9 Uncertainties/Risks

- 9.1 There are a number of uncertainties/risks in respect of the 2020-21 budget at this stage, in particular:
 - The further adjustment to the high needs DSG block to update the import/export adjustments for January 2020 data. This could be either positive or negative.
 - The in-year and retrospective re-calculation of all elements of the early years DSG block, which could be either positive of negative.
 - · Several data issues at individual schools.
 - The outcome of the Authority's application to make changes to funded high needs place numbers at colleges and special academies.
 - The DfE's response to the Authority's request to adjust the minimum pupil funding level (MPFL) for all-through schools to account for differences in the size of cohort between primary and secondary.
 - Any further guidance received from the DfE regarding the finalisation of primary and secondary budget shares.

In the event that the uncertainties have a net impact on the school's block budget there will be a corresponding adjustment to the amount of additional resource allocated to schools.

10 Central Budgets

- 10.1 The central budgets for the schools and central services blocks were agreed by the Forum in November. As mentioned above there has been a small reduction in the central services DSG as compared to the November estimate. However, the DfE has now announced the licenses charge for 2020-21, which is £989k, £6k less than previously estimated.
- 10.2 It is therefore proposed to balance the central services block budget with a £4k reduction in the Licenses budget and the Forum is asked to agree the following revised central budget for licenses for 2020-21.

	Revised 2020-21 budge		
	requested		
DfE arranged	£991,000		
Licenses			

10.3 A listing of the 2020-21 central budgets for the schools and central services blocks (incorporating this change in the Licenses budget) is shown in Annex A.

11 Early Years

- 11.1 As reported previously to Forum, there is a shortfall of funding in the Early Years (EY) Block (currently estimated at £1.132m) between what would be required fully to meet the estimated costs of inflation and the DSG funding available. However, there would be enough funding to deliver to providers the 8p per hour increase in funding which is the assumption made by DfE in calculating EYs DSG allocations.
- 11.2 There are, however, a number of prospective pressures and other issues in Early Years which we would wish Forum to consider when setting the EYs budget. These include:
- The potential for making some EYs funding available to support part of the costs of Schools Family Workers
- The imbalance which currently exists between funding for school improvement and for SEND support between the PVI and schools sectors.
- The future arrangements for the Ludwick Enrichment Programme
- 11.3 Forum will need to come back to these issues at its February meeting, by which point we will be in a position to make a better estimate of 2020-21 resources in the light of the outcome of the January 2020 census.

12 Conclusion

- 12.1 It is necessary to finalise the schools and central services block budgets at this point in order to provide the information on the primary and secondary funding formula which the DfE requires by the 21st of January and to set central budgets.
- 12.2 It will still be possible to make changes to the high needs and early years block budgets, provided that these are within the overall totals for these budgets outlined in this paper. Further information about the early years budget will be brought to the February Forum meeting. The separate high needs budget paper provides information about the further budget process for high needs.
- 12.3 The Forum is asked to agree the recommendations in section 3.

Schools Budget 2020-21

Annex A

	Schools £000	Central Services £000	Early Years £000	High Needs £000	Total £000
Schools Budget 2019-20 (as at section 251)	757,820	6,767	85,937	117,539	968,063
	One Off Item	ns			
Additional high needs DSG received in 2018-19				-2,862	-2,862
Integration Team		-69			-69
Herts Grid for Learning		-80			-80
One Off Items Total	0	-149	0	-2,862	-3,011
Schools Budget 2019-20 net of One Off Items	757,820	6,618	85,937	114,677	965,052
Д	dditional respons	sibilities			
Barnfield College				644	644
Additional Responsibilities Total	0	0	0	644	644
	Pressures				
Demography	7,938		4,232		12,170
Inflation on pay and prices	20,714	143	2,445	3,002	26,304
Growth Fund - Inflation	121				121
Additional special school places 2020-21				421	421
Full year effect of 2019-20 increase in special school places				488	488
Special School top ups				1,338	1,338
Outreach				95	95
Post 16 high needs top ups in colleges				517	517
Post 16 high needs places in colleges				324	324
Full year effect of 2019-20 increase in post 16 high needs top ups				270	270
Full year effect of 2019-20 increase in post 16 high needs places				160	160
Early Years Transition Project during 2020-21			360		360
Growth in free schools	1,794				1,794
New free school opening in 2020-21	94				94
Independent Placements				3,400	3,400
Additional Welfare & Tuition				1,278	1,278
Complex Needs in mainstream (ENF)				2,700	2,700
Out county maintained school top ups				2,357	2,357
Specialist Resource Provision				467	467
Provision for additional costs for colleges high needs provision				1,140	1,140
Growth Fund	200				200
Rates	10				10
Managed Moves (Fair Access Protocol)				66	66
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)	153				153
Integration Team		138			138
Pressures Total	31,024	281	7,037	18,023	56,365

Savings					
Rates	-200				-200
Amalgamations	-187				-187
Bulge classes leaving	-268				-268
Strategy Development fund				-3,774	-3,774
Reduction in special unit places				-21	-21
Appeals		-83			-83
Minimum Funding Guarantee Protection	-2,519				-2,519
Savings to be identified			-1,132		-1,132
Savings Total	-3,174	-83	-1,132	-3,795	-8,184
Schools Budget 2020-21	785,670	6,816	91,842	129,549	1,013,877
	Headroom	l			
Headroom to be allocated	8,535	0	0	1,930	10,465
Schools Budget 2020-21 including headroom	794,205	6,816	91,842	131,479	1,024,342
2020-21 DSG	793,205	5,787	91,482	131,479	1,021,953
Use of carry forward	1,000	1,029	360		2,389
Total DSG Available	794,205	6,816	91,842	131,479	1,024,342
Difference	0	0	0	0	0

Breakdown of Schools and Central Services Blocks	Schools £000	Central Services £000
Schools block		
Primary and Secondary Budget Shares in		
APT	787,998	
Growth Fund	4,707	
Falling Rolls Fund	1,500	
Central School Service block		
Admissions & Integration		1,850
Appeals administration		
Admission appeals		138
Exclusion Appeals		30
Servicing of Schools Forum		30
Boarding Pathfinder		12
DfE arranged Licenses		991
SACRE		20
Former ESG retained duties		2854
School Family Workers		891
Total	794,205	6,816

1 ONE OFF ITEMS

1.1 Additional High Needs DSG received in 2018-19

The 2019-20 budget included this one-off resource which will not be available in 2020-21.

1.2 Integration Team

The additional posts in the team funded from carry forward for part year in 2019-20 will be included in the base budget in 2020-21.

1.3 Herts Grid for Learning

The costs funded in 2019-20 were transitional and one off.

2 ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES (Funded)

2.1 Barnfield College

Barnfield college, Luton has been incorporated into West Herts College. In 2020-21, the high needs places at Barnfield College will be treated as part of the overall West Herts college provision and included in Hertfordshire's high needs budget figures.

3 PRESSURES

3.1 Demography

This constitutes the impact of increases in pupil numbers (excluding growth in free school numbers) on AWPU and other pupil led funding in the schools and early years budget shares.

The budget assumes a reduction in the unit funding rates in respect of pupils entitled to free school meals (FSM). This is to compensate for a large increase in the number of pupils entitled to FSM associated with the introduction of universal credit.

3.2 Inflation on Pay and Prices

This is based on the following estimated increases:

- Teachers pay

- +2% for the Summer Term 2020 (reflecting the element of the September 2019 pay award that is not covered by the teachers' pay grant)
- +3.2% average increase from September 2020 (assuming a higher differential increase for the lower points on the main scale)

- Non-Teachers Pay in Schools

 +3% average increase and assuming a higher differential increase for the lower points on the scale.

- Non-Pay

+2% for non-pay but with specific inflation rates for gas and electricity

(inflation on rates is covered under the rates heading below)

3.3 Growth Fund - Inflation

The element of inflation relating to the Growth Fund in the schools block budget.

3.4 Additional special school places

The figure shown is the part year additional place funding relating to the increase of 71 in funded place numbers in September 2020.

3.5 Full year effect of 2019-20 increase in special school places

The figure shown is the full year effect of the increases in special school places made in September 2019.

3.6 Special School top ups

A pressure of £1.3m has been included to reflect the cost of growth in special school pupil numbers additional to the extra place numbers mentioned above. This comprises:

- -the estimated increase in top up funding,
- -provision for approximately 100 extra places for situations where the number of pupils in a special school exceeds the funded place numbers by at least 3%.

3.7 Outreach

A 20% increase in the budget in order to enhance the current provision.

3.8 Post 16 high needs top ups in colleges

Provision for top ups in respect of the increases in high needs student numbers in Hertfordshire colleges from August 2020.

3.9 Post 16 high needs places in colleges

To provide for the part year additional place funding for an increase of 81 in funded place numbers from August 2020.

3.10 Full year effect of 2019-20 increase in post 16 high needs top ups

This relates to the full year effect of the 2019-20 budget pressure relating to top ups for an increase in the number and complexity of high needs students in colleges and independent specialist providers.

3.11 Full year effect of 2019-20 increase in post 16 high needs places

This relates to the full year effect of the 2019-20 budget pressure for additional high needs places in colleges.

3.12 Early Years transition project during 2020-21

Schools Forum agreed to set aside funding of £960k, on a one-off basis, to commission, from Herts for Learning (HfL), a programme of action to improve transition between nursery and reception provision and potentially other activities, and thereby improve attainment at EYFS. £360k was allocated to 2019-20, with a further £360k in 2020-21 and £240k in 2021-22.

3.13 Growth in free schools

The DSG will not take account of the additional cohort starting in free schools in September 2020. The Authority will, however, have to fund this cohort and this constitutes a budget pressure.

The pressure includes the full year effect of the lump sum for the free school which opened in September 2019.

3.14 New free school opening in 2020-21

One new free school is expected to open in September 2020. This pressure constitutes the estimated lump sum for this school.

3.15 Independent Placements

This pressure includes £1.9m for increases in both the number of placements in independent provision and their average cost.

There is also an increase of £1.5m due to the contribution to social care education costs.

3.16 Additional Welfare and Tuition

The pressure relates to an increased number of pupils with ECHPs, the lack of places available in special schools and increase in exclusions. There has been an increase in the number of children with home tuition packages and funding for teaching assistant support in schools outside of Hertfordshire. In addition, there has been an increasing number of Tribunal decisions requiring additional resourcing in mainstream schools and Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) programmes resulting in higher costs.

3.17 Exceptional Needs Funding (ENF)

Pressures have been included in the budget for the following:

- i) £1.8m to reflect the current level of overspending in the EN budget,
- ii) £0.9m to provide for an increase in the number of EN pupils in 2020-21.

This does not cover resourcing the new arrangements for funding complex needs in mainstream schools.

3.18 Out county maintained school top ups

An increase in the number of placements in schools in other local authorities caused by the shortage of spaces in Hertfordshire schools, particularly in our specialist provision.

3.19 Specialist resource provision

An allocation to fund the establishment of new specialist resource provision. A part year amount has been included to cover the period September to March.

3.20 Provision for additional costs regarding high needs provision in colleges

Also included in the budget pressures are:

- -a provision of £480k for a further in year increase in the number of high needs college places (additional to the numbers submitted to the DfE),
- -a provision of £660k in respect of care costs for high needs students in colleges.

3.21 Growth fund

An increase in the costs of the Growth Fund, mainly relating to start-up funding for the new primary school in Bishops Stortford but also an uplift in the infant class size funding rates (which have not been increased in recent years).

3.22 Rates

Increases in rates costs, from inflation and revaluations.

3.23 Managed moves (Fair Access Protocol)

The DfE has proposed to change the Fair Access Protocol to include CIN children which could lead to significant increase in workload for the Fair Access Team. In addition there has been a significant increase in mover-ins and pupils with complex needs as well as an increase in the number of young people pending EHCPs. An additional £66k has been provided in order to ensure our legal compliance with statutory legislation in ensuring these children receive appropriate education provision.

3.24 Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

The threshold used to calculate protection funding under the Private Finance Initiative factor has been amended from 10% to 8% of the school's budget share, in order to increase the level of protection offered.

3.25 Integration Team

Additional posts in the Integration Team.

4 SAVINGS

4.1 Rates for converting academies

There is a saving in rates funding in budget shares due to the conversion of schools from community to academy or foundation status.

4.2 Amalgamations

Projected reductions in funding through the lump sum factor in 2020-21 relating to the following amalgamations

- a) Meridian, Roysia and Greneway schools which amalgamated in September 2019.
- b) Redbourne Infants and Juniors which amalgamated in April 2018.

4.3 Bulge Classes Leaving

Hertfordshire has applied to the DfE and received approval to reduce the budget shares of schools where bulge classes will be leaving in Summer 2020, in order to reflect the reductions in the number of pupils on roll. The saving that would result is shown.

4.4 Strategy Development Fund

The balance of the 2019-20 budget for the SEN Strategy Development fund is taken as a saving to fund the high needs budget.

4.5 Reduction in Special Unit Places

A saving in per place funding resulting from the reduction of place numbers in a speech and language unit.

4.6 Appeals

A saving resulting from the introduction of charges to maintained schools for the administration of admission appeals. These changes are being introduced to comply with DfE requirements to treat academies and maintained schools on the same basis.

4.7 Minimum Funding Guarantee Protection

A reduction in the amount of protection funding payable under the minimum funding guarantee (MFG). This mainly relates to a baseline adjustment to Samuel Ryder's recoupment budget share, agreed by the DfE, to bring it in line with the baseline used to calculate the academy's general annual grant (GAG). This baseline adjustment does not have an impact on the funding that Samuel Ryder receives but has freed up MFG protection (currently returned to the DfE).

4.8 Early Years saving to be identified

It is estimated a saving will be required in the early years budget to keep expenditure at the level of the early years DSG block.

5 ADJUSTMENTS TO MATCH BUDGET TO DSG AVAILABLE

5.1 Headroom

The headroom is calculated as the resource available after taking account of budget pressures and savings. It is intended to transfer the remaining balance of the headroom amount in the high needs budget to the SEN Strategy Development Fund.

The headroom in the schools block, together with the amount allocated under the inflation heading, form the additional resource to be allocated in primary and secondary budget shares.