# (BARKING AND DAGENHAM SCHOOLS FORUM)

(17<sup>th</sup> January 2017)

| Title: So                     | chool Forum Report   |                                  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Report of: CORPORATE DIRECTOR |  |                                  |  |  |  |
| Open                          |  | For Decision / For               |  |  |  |
|                               |  | Information                      |  |  |  |
|                               | Affected: All  | Key Decision: No                 |  |  |  |
| Report /                      |  | Contact Details:                 |  |  |  |
| Daksha                        | Chauhan – Group Accountant (Finance)   | Tel: 020 8724 2250               |  |  |  |
|                               |  | E-mail:                          |  |  |  |
|                               |  | daksha.chauhan@lbbd.gov.uk       |  |  |  |
|                               | table Operational Director: Jane Hargreaves -                                | Commissioning Director for       |  |  |  |
|                               | on Youth and Childcare   | rie Director for Comise          |  |  |  |
|                               | table Strategic Director: Anne Bristow – Strate                              | gic Director for Service         |  |  |  |
|                               | ment and Integration   | arking and Degenhern Cabaala     |  |  |  |
| Forum o                       | <b>ry:</b> The purpose of this report is to update the Ba                    | arking and Dagennam Schools      |  |  |  |
| Forum o                       |  |                                  |  |  |  |
| 1.<br>2.                      | (Background)<br>The Dedicated schools Grant 2016-17 Forecas                  | t Outturn                        |  |  |  |
| 2.<br>3.                      | The Dedicated schools Grant 2017-18 Allocatic                                |                                  |  |  |  |
| 4.                            | Centrally Retained Services  | J13.                             |  |  |  |
|                               | Continued contribution to Local Safeguarding E                               | Board                            |  |  |  |
| 6.                            | Retained and General duties ESG  | Joand                            |  |  |  |
| 7.                            | De-Delegation  |                                  |  |  |  |
| 8.                            | Final Schools Funding Formula 2017-18  |                                  |  |  |  |
| 9.                            | High Needs – Proposed Budget 2017-18   |                                  |  |  |  |
| 10.                           | Early Years National Funding Formula   |                                  |  |  |  |
| 11.                           |  |                                  |  |  |  |
| 12.                           | 5  |                                  |  |  |  |
| Recomr                        | nendation(s)   |                                  |  |  |  |
|                               | ools Forum is asked:   |                                  |  |  |  |
| (i)                           | To note DSG outturn position for 2016-17.                                    |                                  |  |  |  |
| (ií)                          | To note DSG allocations for 2017-18  |                                  |  |  |  |
| (iii)                         | To continue a contribution to the Local Safegua                              | arding Children's Board for      |  |  |  |
|                               | 2016/17 (£50k)   |                                  |  |  |  |
| (iv)                          | To agree per pupil de-delegated amounts for F                                | ree School Meals eligibility and |  |  |  |
|                               | Trade Union support.   |                                  |  |  |  |
| (v)                           | (v) Agree to the central retention of the retained duties ESG;               |                                  |  |  |  |
| (vi)                          |  |                                  |  |  |  |
|                               | Legal in managing School Appeals, or agree for this to be managed through an |                                  |  |  |  |
|                               | increase in centrally retained.  |                                  |  |  |  |
| · · /                         | (vii) Agree the final School Funding model                                   |                                  |  |  |  |
| · · ·                         | (viii) Note the proposed High Needs Budget.                                  |                                  |  |  |  |
| (ix)                          | Note the impact of the Early Years National Fu                               |                                  |  |  |  |
| (x)                           | To approve managing the costs relating to the ligh Needs Budget.             | Home Portage Service from        |  |  |  |
| (xi)                          | Note the proposals for the early closure of acco                             | ounts                            |  |  |  |
|                               | · · ·  |                                  |  |  |  |
| Reason                        | (s)  |                                  |  |  |  |
| None                          |  |                                  |  |  |  |

### 1. Introduction and Background

1.1 The School Forum is a decision making and consultative body in relation to matters concerning schools' budgets as defined in the School Finance (England) Regulations 2012 and the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012. The Forum is required to meet at least four times a year.

#### 2. Dedicated Schools Grant 2016-17 Forecast Outturn Position

#### 2.1 Dedicated Schools Grant Forecast Outturn 2016-17 as at November 2016

|       | Table 1 - Dedicated Schools Grant Forecast Outturn 2016-17 as at November           2016 |                            |                                |                               |                         |  |  |  |
|-------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| Notes |  | 2016-17<br>Budget<br>£'000 | 2016-17<br>Forecast<br>Outturn | Year End<br>Variance<br>£'000 | % over/<br>(underspend) |  |  |  |
| 2     |  |                            | £'000                          | (underspend) /<br>overspend   |                         |  |  |  |
|       | 2 Year Old Funding   | 4,597                      | 4,597                          | 0                             | 0.00%                   |  |  |  |
|       | Early Years Block  | 13,730                     | 14,016                         | 286                           | 2.08%                   |  |  |  |
|       | High Needs Block   | 25,910                     | 26,262                         | 352                           | 1.36%                   |  |  |  |
|       | SEND Strategy  | 3,200                      | 3,110                          | (90)                          | -2.81%                  |  |  |  |
|       | Schools Block  | 200,072                    | 199,856                        | (216)                         | -0.11%                  |  |  |  |
|       |  |                            |                                |                               |                         |  |  |  |
|       | TOTAL  | £247,509                   | £247,841                       | £332                          | 0.13%                   |  |  |  |

| Table 2 – Forecast DSG Reserve Position by 31 March 2017 |       |  |  |  |  |
|--|-------|--|--|--|--|
|  | £'000 |  |  |  |  |
| 2015-16 DSG Carry Forward                                | 8,689 |  |  |  |  |
| Less Budgeted Drawdown                                   | 6,449 |  |  |  |  |
| 2015/16 Early Years Block adjustment for Jan 2016 Census | 431   |  |  |  |  |
| Recoupment Adjustment (Sydney Russell Growth)            | 115   |  |  |  |  |
| Less Projected Overspend                                 | 332   |  |  |  |  |
| 2016-17 DSG Carry Forward                                | 2,454 |  |  |  |  |

### 2.2 Early Years Block is reporting a variance of £280k

2.2.1 There is an overspend of £206k relating to additional 200 PVI pupils during the year. The projected additional funding of £284k has for these pupils is already built in to the budget. There is also a pressure of £80k for the Home Portage Service.

#### 2.3 High Needs Block is reporting a variance of £352k

2.3.1 There is a projected overspend on ARP provision £309k due to additional places created at the Monteagle ARP and majority of vacancies being filled from September. There is a projected £450k overspend on SEN Contingency (In Borough Top-Ups) due to demographic pressures with an increasing number of pupils with SEN requirements. This overspend is partially offset by projected underspend on Out of Borough placements (£387k) as a result of work to keep children within LBBD provision where possible and, if not, to place them in maintained rather than independent settings. Other minor variances (£20k).

#### 2.4 SEND Strategy has a projected underspend of £90k

#### 2.5 Schools Block has a projected underspend of £216k

- 2.5.1 The underspend on the schools' block is broken as:
  - Schools Facing Financial Difficulties underspend (£533k);
  - General Contingency underspend (£93k).
  - Growth Fund overspend £784k
  - Centrally Retained Budgets budgets underspend (£374k)

#### 3. Dedicated Schools Grant 2017-18

3.1 The Schools Revenue Funding settlement for 2017-18 was announced by the Department for Education(DfE) on 20 December 2016. The Dedicated Schools Grant(DSG) allocated to this authority is **£254.448 million** for 2017-18. This figure is the gross amount before Academies Recoupment from the Schools Block(SB) and High Needs Block Deductions. Tables 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 below sets out block allocations.

### Table 3.1: Gross and Net allocations for 2017-18

|                            | Schools Block |                                     | Early Years Block                                      |             |  |                              | High Needs Block |         |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|---------|
|                            |               | 3-4 Year olds<br>(Universal-15 Hrs) | 3-4 Year olds<br>(Additional 15 Hrs<br>from Sept 2017) | 2 Year Olds | 3-4 Year olds<br>Disability Access<br>Fund | Early Years Pupil<br>Premium |                  | Total   |
| Units of Funding           | £5,542.64     | £2,912.70                           | £2,912.70  | £3,226.20   |  |                              |                  | -       |
| Count                      | 37,181.00     | 4, 734. 72                          | 566.53   | 1,402.03    |  |                              |                  |         |
|                            | £(000)        | £(000)                              | £(000)   | £(000)      | £(000)                                     | £(000)                       | £(000)           | £(000)  |
| Baseline allocations       | 206,081       | 13,791                              | 1,650  | 4,523       | 80   | 199                          | 25,687           | 252,012 |
| Post 16 Element 2 transfer |               |                                     |  |             |  |                              | 1,388            | 1,388   |
| Population Uplift for HNB  |               |                                     |  |             |  |                              | 497              | 497     |
| Growth Uplift for HNB      |               |                                     |  |             |  |                              | 551              | 551     |
| Gross DSG Allocation       | 206,081       | 13,791                              | 1,650  | 4,523       | 80   | 199                          | 28,123           | 254,448 |

### 3.2 **Basis of Dedicated Schools Grant**

3.2.1 In July 2016, the DfE announced the outcome of the rebasing exercise using actual spending patterns submitted by the Local Authorities in April 2016. This took account of on-going inter-block transfers and set cash baselines for the both the Schools Block (SB) and the High Needs Block(HNB). In addition, the retained element (£0.607 million) of the Education Services Grant has been transferred into the DSG SB and is included in the Schools Block Unit of Funding(SBUF). This is £5,542.64 for Barking and Dagenham. The total allocation for the SB is £206.081 million (37,181 x £5,542.64). Recoupment deductions for academies 2017-18 will be £35.320 million,

therefore the net amount of cash receivable by the authority for the SB is **£170.762 million.** For 2016-17 the final gross allocation for the SB is £201.971 million.

|       | Unit of<br>Funding | NOR    | Gross Allocation<br>£'000 |
|-------|--------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| Total | £5,542.64          | 37,181 | £206,081                  |

 Table 3.2: Schools Block DSG Funding 2017-18

- 3.2.2 Allocations for the Early Years Block(EYB) were announced on 1 December 2016. This was in response to the consultation on the Early Years National Funding Formula in Summer 2016.
- 3.2.3 The EYB is comprised of funding for Universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3 to 4 year olds (£13.791 million); new funding for an additional 15 hours for eligible working parents for three and four year olds (£1.650 million from September 2017); funding for the Early Years Pupil premium (£0.199 million); new funding for Disability Access (£0.080million) and funding for eligible 2 year olds (£4.523 million). The total allocation is £20.243 million for Barking and Dagenham. For 2016-17, the latest allocation for the EYB is £15.931 million.

|   | Unit of<br>Funding | FTE      | Allocation<br>£"'000 |
|---|--------------------|----------|----------------------|
| 3-4 Year olds (Universal-15 Hrs)                  | £2,912.70          | 4,734.72 | 13,791               |
| 3-4 Year olds (Additional 15 Hrs from Sept. 2017) | £2,912.70          | 566.53   | 1,650                |
| 2 Year Olds                                       | £3,226.20          | 1,402.03 | 4,523                |
| 3-4 Year olds Disability Access Fund              |                    |          | 80                   |
| Early Years Pupil Premium                         |                    |          | 199                  |
| Total Funding                                     |                    |          | 20,243               |

- 3.2.5 The baseline for the HNB was announced in July 2016. This reflected current spending patterns as returned by local authorities. The baseline was set at **£27.075 million**, which included **£1.388 million** of post 16 funding for the HNB. This additional transfer was previously held by the DfE and represents place led funding for post-16 institutions and providers. From 2017 to 2018 all these places will be funded from the initial high needs block allocations to local authorities. Deductions will then be made to fund institutions directly, based on information collected from local authorities, before the high needs block allocations are finalised in March 2017.
- 3.2.6 The DfE have recognised the cost pressures on the HNB nationally and have made additional distributions to the baseline. For Barking and Dagenham, the additions are **£0.497 million** for population uplift plus **£0.551 million** for growth uplift. The total

initial HNB allocation for 2017-18 in the DSG is **£28.123 million.** For 2016-17 the final gross allocation is £23.745 million.

|                            | Gross Allocation<br>£'000 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Baseline Allocation        | 25,687                    |
| Post 16 Element 2 transfer | 1,388                     |
| Population Uplift for HNB  | 497                       |
| Growth Uplift for HNB      | 551                       |
|                            |                           |
| Total Funding              | 28,123                    |

## Table 3.4: High Needs Block DSG Funding 2017-18

#### 4. Schools Block DSG 2017-18

- 4.1 **Growth Fund** Schools Forum in October 2016 agreed to retain **£2.500 million** for significant 5-16 pupil growth, and the allocation criteria.
- 4.2 Centrally Retained Services Funding for some services can be centrally retained before allocating the formula, with the agreement of the schools forum. A number of these services are subject to a limitation of no new commitments or increases in expenditure from 2016-17 and schools forum approval is required each year to confirm the amounts on each line. Appendix A sets out which services can be retained and the proposed amounts for 2017-18 which total £1.917m. This was agreed at the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016.
- 4.3 Education Services Grant (ESG) Retained Duties As reported at the November meeting, the Local Authority will no longer be allocated ESG (£3.6m in 2016-17) from September 2017 as part of Government spending plans. This grant funds the existing duties of the Local Authority and is made up of two elements: a general funding rate and the retained funding rate. The ESG retained duties rate (£15 per pupil) is to be transferred into the DSG and will form part of the new Central block when that is established. It is shown as part of the schools block for 2017-18 and amounts to £0.607million. This element of the ESG funds the on-going statutory duties of the local authority for all pupils in their local area.
- 4.4 The local authority is able to fund central services previously met from within the retained duties rate (for all schools), with Schools Forum approval. The guidance now also enables local authorities to fund duties previously funded within the general duties rate from maintained school budget shares with the agreement of maintained schools forum members.
- 4.5 Legal Services are facing a pressure of £97k in managing the appeals process for admissions. The options are to fund this from the general duties rate for maintained schools or increase the centrally retained budget for Admissions by £97k.

(i) Decision required: Schools Forum are asked to approve the central retention of the retained duties ESG. (All members may vote)

(ii) Decision required: a) Schools Forum are asked to approve the funding of additional legal costs for School Appeals;
If a) is approved decision required on whether this should be met from the general duties rate for maintained schools or by increasing the centrally retained budget for Admissions.

- 4.5 De-delegation It was agreed at the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016 that no further contributions are to be made to the Schools Facing Financial Difficulties contingency and that the Schools General Contingency was to be reduced by £50k. It was agreed at the meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 that contributions to Free School Meals Eligibility would be reduced to £25k and that savings of 7% would be applied for Trade Union Support.
- 4.5.1 Details of the de-delegated services are contained in Table 4. Schools forum are asked to agree the de-delegated per pupil amounts for Free School Meals Eligibility and trade union support.

| Description                     | 2016-17:<br>Per Pupil<br>for both<br>sectors | 2016-17:<br>Total | 2017-18:<br>Per Pupil<br>for both<br>sectors | 2017-18:<br>Total |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|
|                                 | <u>£</u>                                     | £                 | £  | <u>£</u>          |
| Schools in Financial Difficulty | 7.96   | 249,880           | 0  | 0                 |
| Schools Specific Contingency    | 5.02   | 157,588           | 3.49   | 108,490           |
| LSCB Contribution               | 1.36   | 42,393            | 1.33   | 41,344            |
| Free School Meals Eligibility   | 1.59   | 49,913            | 0.80   | 24,869            |
| Support for Trade Union Duties  | 8.55   | 268,402           | 8.02   | 249,310           |
| Total                           | 24.48  | 768,476           | 13.64  | 424,013           |

### Table 4: De-delegated Budgets 2017-18

(iii)Decision required: Approve the de-delegated per pupil amounts for Free School Meals Eligibility, Schools Specific Contingency, LSCB contribution and Trade Union Support. (Maintained Primary and Maintained Secondary school member representatives only to decide separately by phase)

### 4.6 Continue Contribution to Local Safeguarding Board

4.6.1 A Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) must be established for every local authority area under the requirements of the Children Act 2004. The LSCB has a range of roles and statutory functions including developing local safeguarding policy and procedures and scrutinising local arrangements.

- 4.6.2 S13(4) of the Children Act 2004 sets out the statutory role of schools in the safeguarding of children and their representation on the LSCB. The statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2015) chapter 3 para 19, sets out requirements for the LSCB annual report to "list the contributions made to the LSCB by partners and details of what the LSCB has spent". "In addition all LSCB members have an obligation to provide LSCB's with reliable resources, including finance, that enable the LSCB to be strong and effective. Members should share the financial responsibility for the LSCB in such a way that a disproportionate burden does not fall on a small number of agencies".
- 4.6.3 Schools Forum provided financial support to the LSCB in 2016-17. Academies will be invoiced for their contribution at £0.80 per pupil to give at a total of £50k in 2017-18.

### 4.7 Schools Funding Formula 2017-18

- 4.7.1 Final Funding Model the model has used the same 10 factors as in previous years with the same level unit values for pupil led funding, as for 2016-17, except for AWPU rates, which have increased. These adjustments are affordable within the overall DSG.
- 4.7.2 The DfE announced that Minimum Funding Guarantee is to remain at 1.5% per pupil, comparing one year with another. The capping rate was previously agreed to be 3.11% with 100% scaling. Primary Secondary ratio has been retained at 1:1.30. Appendix B(i) shows comparative schools block allocations excluding schools' business rates(NNDR). Appendix B(ii) provides the schools budget after dedelegation. Appendix C sets out a summary of changes in factor rates and changes to pupil characteristics.

 (iv) Decision required – Schools Forum is requested to consider and recommend a final funding model which maintains a ratio of 1: 1:30. (All members may vote)

### 5. LBBD High Needs Block Proposed Budget (HNB)

5.1 **Appendix D** provides the proposed High Needs Budget subsequent to the DSG announcement in December. The High Needs Working Group will meet on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and a verbal update will be provided.

#### 6. Early Years National Funding Formula

6.1 A new early years national funding formula for 3 and 4 year olds was announced on 1 December 2016. The government's response to the consultation can be found in the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/574040/Early\_y ears\_funding\_government\_consultation\_response.pdf

The main points from the consultation are:

- The new formula allocates funding to local authorities for the existing 15-hour entitlement for all three- and four-year-olds and the additional 15 hours for three- and four-year children of eligible working parents. The funding rates for both the existing 15-hour entitlement and the additional 15-hour entitlement are the same. Funding in 2017-18 for the additional 15-hour entitlement is from September 2017.
- The formula consists of a universal base rate plus factors for additional needs, which the government have based on measures for free school meals; disability living allowance and English as an additional language.
- The formula also includes an area cost adjustment multiplier to reflect variations in local costs.
- The formula includes a minimum funding rate of £4.30 per hour to local authorities, which will give local authorities the scope to pay providers an average funding rate of at least £4 per hour.
- A funding floor ensures that no local authority can face a reduction in its hourly funding rate of greater than 10% against its 2016-17 baseline. Transitional protections ensure that in any year, no local authority sees an annual reduction in their hourly funding rate of more than 5%.
- The introduction of a disability access fund (DAF), where settings will be entitled to receive a one-off payment of £615 per year. The DAF is not based on an hourly rate and is an additional entitlement. Children do not have to take up the full 570 hours of early education they are entitled to in order to receive the DAF.
- A requirement for authorities to establish a special educational needs (SEN) inclusion fund where the local authority does not currently have one established.
- All local authorities should be funded by the early years national funding formula by 2019-20.
- There is new requirement to allocate at least 93% of funding (universal and additional) for 3 to 4 year olds in 2017-18. This is known as the high pass-through requirement, which rises to 95% in 2018-19. In addition, the cap on funding supplements is 10% of the total allocated to settings. It is mandatory to have to a deprivation supplement; other options can only be for sparsity, EAL, quality and flexibility. Allocations for 2, 3 and 4 year olds are indicative based on January 2016 census and will be updated to reflect the January 2017 (5/12ths) and January 2018 (7/12ths) census data. The first update will take place in July 2017 and final census adjustment will be made to the DSG in 2018-19.

### 6.2 Impact for Barking and Dagenham

6.2.1 The new early years DSG allocation for Barking and Dagenham will mean a significant uplift in the funding rate to early years providers including nursery classes in schools. Modelling the early Years Funding national funding formula for Barking and Dagenham will mean a base rate funding of £4.50 per hour for all providers, an increase of £1.50 per hour on the 2016-17 base rate of £3.00 per hour. The proposed deprivation rates are between £0.22 and £0.30 per hour based on IDACI bandings. The formula also allocates £0.21 per hour for a flexibility factor for PVI providers. Other factors are not being used as they are difficult to judge and may change more frequently than the service offer, making it more difficult for budget setting purposes. These proposed rates have been sent out to Early Years providers with response requested by 10<sup>th</sup> January

2017. It is also proposed to increase the funding rate to £5.35 per hour to settings with eligible 2 year olds.

- 6.2.2 However, this uplift comes with a direction from Government that centrally retained spend by local authorities must be significantly reduced. Currently the local authority retains £1.9 million (12%) from the DSG for central costs (including SEN inclusion Fund). The Government has set a central spend limit of 7% in 2017-18 and 5% in 2018-19. This means that the centrally retained limit will become £1,080,867 in 2017-18 and reducing further in 2018-19 to £772,048.
- 6.2.3 A disapplication request has been submitted to the DfE for Home Portage Costs to be excluded from the 'High Pass Through Requirement' calculation. The government have indicated that this would only be approved in very exceptional circumstances and would only apply until 2019-20.
- 6.2.4 The finance team have worked through options with the Service Manager for Early Years for managing the limit on central spend. This is summarised in the table below. The proposal is that £300k of Portage spend is managed by the High Needs Block on an ongoing basis, a saving from the Pre School Alliance contract of £125k, Early Years coordinators to be funded from the Council General Fund budget for the sum of £98k in 2017-18 and the full £300k by 2018-19. There is also a proposal to manage £68k from the 2 Year Old central spend andstart to move to a traded service for the early years teachers by 2018-19 with an expected income of £100k.

| Early Years Centrally Retained                 |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Centrally Retained                             | 2017-18   | 2018-19   |
|  | £         | £         |
| Amount allowable at 7%                         | 1,080,867 |           |
| Amount allowable at 5%                         |           | 772,048   |
| Usage  |           |           |
| Childminding Development Officers              | 121,800   | 121,800   |
| Early years commissioning costs                | 207,300   | 207,300   |
| Early Years Coordinators                       | 202,467   |           |
| Early Years Teacher Service                    | 427,100   | 327,100   |
| Home Portage Scheme                            | 122,200   | 122,200   |
| Adjustment                                     |           | (6,352)   |
| Apply to Centrally Retained                    | 1,080,867 | 772,048   |
|  |           |           |
| Other Funding Sources                          |           |           |
| Early Years Coordinators from General Fund     | 98,033    | 300,500   |
| Home Portage from High Needs                   | 300,000   | 300,000   |
| Saving from PSLA Contract from 1 April 2017    | 125,000   | 125,000   |
| 2 posts to be funded from 2 Year Olds          | 68,000    | 68,000    |
| Early Years Teacher Service (Traded)           |           | 100,000   |
| Adjustment                                     |           | 6,352     |
| Total  | 591,033   | 899,852   |
|  |           |           |
| Total  | 1,671,900 | 1,671,900 |
| SEN Support for children with additional needs |           |           |
| in PVI settings (SEN Inclusion Fund)           | 284,600   | 284,600   |
| Total Centrally Retained 2016-17               | 1,956,500 | 1,956,500 |

(v) To note: – Schools Forum is requested to note the new early years national funding formula for 3 and 4 year olds and the proposed rates for providers and new hourly rate to settings with eligible 2 year olds.

(vi)Decision required – Schools Forum is requested to approve managing £300k costs relating to the Home Portage Service from the HNB. (All members may vote)

### 7. Early Closure of Accounts

7.1 The Local Authority is piloting the early closedown of maintained schools accounts for 2016-17 ahead of the statutory deadline. The change is included within The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, paragraph 10 (1) requiring authorities and Chief Finance Officers to sign off the accounts by 31 May (currently 30 June), subject to Audit. However, under paragraph 21 (Transitory provisions), this element of the regulations does not begin until the 2017-18 financial year.

- 7.2 Currently, the early closedown only affects the production of the Local Authority accounts. It is expected that the DfE will move the CFR timetables to coincide with the Local Authority accounts in due course.
- 7.3 Following an initial meeting with Schools Business Managers on 16 November 2016, it is proposed to use the schools' Quarter 3 budget monitoring reports to estimate the projected outturn. These will be used to update the Council's records for the preparation of the final Statutory Statement of Accounts. A further communication explaining the proposal was sent to all maintained schools asking for their comments on 23 November 2016. There was no disagreement on the proposed process.
- 7.4 The budget monitoring report for Quarter 3(Q3) sets out the actual income and expenditure for April to December and a forecast for the last three months. It is important to ensure that the information reported in the School's Q3 budget monitoring returns are a complete and accurate record of the school's position at the time of preparation. The reports will need to be signed off by the Head Teacher and Schools Business Manager. In making the Outturn Forecast for 2016-17, schools need to ensure that for the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2017 that all anticipated income and expenditure is projected, considering all information and inputs available at the time.
- 7.5 Please note that the revenue and capital closedown timetable within all maintained schools is unaffected and will take place as usual as at 31 March 2017, and CFR uploads as normal in June 2017. The timetable for Revenue and Capital closedown and School Summary Outturn Template will be issued in due course, together with the closedown guidance on all information requests.

### 8. National Funding Formula – Consultation Stage 2

- 8.1 On 14<sup>th</sup> December the government responded to the first stage of the schools and high needs consultations and provided the detailed proposals for consultation on the national funding formulae for schools, high needs and the central school services block. The consultation period ends on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017. Meetings are being scheduled of the sub group involved in responding to the first stage of the consultation and this will be reported back to Schools Forum.
- 8.2 **Appendix E** provides a summary of the proposals and consultation questions.

#### 9. Options Appraisal

9.1 Not applicable.

#### 10. Consultation

10.1 Not applicable.

### 11. Financial Implications

11.1 The School Funding Formula is contained within the Dedicated Schools Grant

#### 12 Legal Implications

- 12.1 The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 govern the constitution and conduct of meetings of the Forum. The Schools Finance (England) Regulations 2012 determine those matters on which the Local Authority must or may consult the Schools Forum and those in respect of which the Schools Forum can make decisions. These Regulations make provision for the financial arrangements of local authorities in relation to the funding of maintained schools and providers of prescribed early years provision in England, for the financial year 2013/14.
- 12. Other Implications
- a. Risk Management None
- b. Contractual Issues None
- c. Staffing Issues None
- d. Customer Impact None
- e. Safeguarding Children- None
- f. Health Issues None
- g. Crime and Disorder Issues None
- h. Property / Asset Issues None

### Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

None.

### List of appendices:

- Appendix A Centrally Retained Budgets
- Appendix B (i) and (ii) Final School Funding Model 2017-18
- Appendix C Summary of Final Model's Key figures
- Appendix D High needs block Proposed Budget
- Appendix E National Schools Funding Formula