

(BARKING AND DAGENHAM SCHOOLS FORUM)

(Tuesday 18^h March 2014)

Title: School Forum Report	
Report of: CORPORATE DIRECTOR	
Open	For Decision / For Information
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Director: Helen Jenner – Corporate Director (Children’s Services)	
Summary: The purpose of this report is to update the Barking and Dagenham Schools Forum on: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. (Background)2. The Dedicated Schools Grant 2013/14 Budget Monitor3. The 2013/14 Schools Facing Financial Difficulty contingency – update on position4. Early Years Block and Single funding Formula Review and consultation5. Proposed Changes to Alternative Resource Provision 2014/156. High Needs Model for Change of Placement/Provision7. School Funding arrangements 2015/168. EFA Timetable9. Update on Head Teacher Steering Group10. Free school Meals to the under 7s11. Central Contracts12. School Finance Web Page	
Recommendation(s) The Schools Forum is asked: <ol style="list-style-type: none">(i) Schools Facing Financial Difficulty - £259,540 over allocation to be the first call on the 2014-15 de-delegated Schools facing Financial Difficulties budget.(ii) To increase the top ups for James Cambell Primary School and Ripple Primary School by £4,850 and £4,750 respectively(iii) High Needs Model for Change of Placement/Provision - to agree and approve the proposed contribution mechanism for Specialist Alternative Provision	
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 – 2013-14 Forecast

Dedicated Schools Grant – 2013-14 Forecast as at February 2014

	Revised Block	2013-14 Forecast	Year End Variance (underspend) / overspend)
2 Year Old Funding	£4,465,000	£2,903,000	(£1,562,000)
Early Years Block	£11,424,917	£10,730,917	(£694,000)
High Needs Block	£24,407,468	£23,924,468	(£483,000)
Schools Block	£177,724,387	£177,402,427	(£321,960)
	£218,021,771	£214,960,811	(£3,060,960)

Notes

Remaining 2012-13 DSG
carry forward allocated to
High needs Block (£4,431,683)

Anticipated 2013-14 DSG carry forward (£7,492,643)

2 Year old funding

Forecast for £1,562k variance 2014/15 fund trajectory funding up to September 2014 to be carried forward.

Early Years Block

Forecast to under spend by £694k. £529k of this is due to 'one off' additional funding in the block for 2013/14 (£165k 2012/13 carry forward / £364k transitional protection for removal of 90% floor). The remaining £165k underspend is as a result of the additional £488k area cost pay adjustment being added to the 2013-14 budget.

High Needs Block

2013/14 block value £24.407m

Forecast approx. £483k underspend. Key pressures can be mitigated within the block:

Pupil Referral Unit Umbrella services	£555k
Primary ARP's	£222k
Secondary ARP's	(£920k)
Trinity ARP's	(£51k)
Non Maintained fees and Recoupment	(£322k)
Primary Dowry and SEN Training budget	£28k
Maths and literacy projects	£20k
Miscellaneous	(£15k)
	(£483k)

Schools Block

Schools facing financial difficulties over allocation £260k (See section 3). As this is funded from De-delegation it will be the first call on the 2014-15 de-delegated Schools facing financial difficulty contingency. The growth fund is anticipated to underspend by £581k, this has been earmarked for the 2014-15 growth Fund.

3. 2013/14 Schools Facing Financial Difficulty Contingency

- 3.1 One new request for support have been received since January forum from Warren Comprehensive School

Table 1: Schools Facing Financial Difficulty Contingency 2013/14

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
De-delegated amount	£1,250,000	£1,000,005		
c/f from previous year	£489,100	(£259,540)		
Contingency	£1,739,100	£740,465		
In year allocations:				
Warren recovery plan	(£321,640)			
Warren additional support	(£200,000)	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000
Eastbrook	(£500,000)		(£400,000)*	
Eastbrook Support funding agreed February 2012	(£160,000)	(£160,000)		
Barking Abbey loan	(£400,000)	£40,000	£180,000	£180,000
Leys Primary	(£99,000)			
Dorothy Barley Juniors	(£92,000)			
Village Infants	(£80,000)			
Henry Green Primary	(£80,000)			
St Joseph's, Barking	(£66,000)			
Balance / (over allocation)	(£259,540)	£670,465		

* To be confirmed, business case to be resubmitted to School Facing Financial Difficulty Sub group

- 3.2 The 2013-14 de-delegated amount has been over allocated by £259,540.

(i) Decision – the 2013-14 £259,540 over allocation to be the first call on the 2014-15 de-delegated Schools facing Financial Difficulties budget.

4. Early Years Block and single funding formula review and consultation

- 4.1 A decision was made by Forum at the last meeting for the LA to undertake a full review and consultation of the Early Years Single Funding Formula in preparation for the 2015/16 financial year.

Members agreed to set up a working party with the appropriate representation and further feedback would be reported back to School Forum.

A pre meet with the LAs Early Years representatives was held on the 28 January 2014 and representatives of the working group was discussed including all sectors.

The next planned meeting is to be held on the 13 March 2014.

5. Proposed Changes to Alternative Resource Provisions Update

- 5.1 The current arrangements for the Local Authority (LA) to fund ARPs top ups on a monthly basis. The place funding is paid 5/12ths in April and 7/12ths in September. The LA also pays 2 months equivalent place funding up front for new ARP provisions, and this will continue.
- 5.2 As funding is received on a monthly basis from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) this upfront funding has an adverse effect on the LA's cashflow and results in a loss of interest as well as creating an administrative burden.
- 5.3 In order to address these issues it is proposed to revert to a system where Schools with ARPs receive place funding at the start of each term and top ups in the last month of the term. Schools will still need to collect the data monthly but only submit claims termly.
- 5.4 Unfortunately the LA does not have the resources to administer two systems. If this proposal is not accepted by **all** schools with ARPs, we will have to revert to the DfE minimum requirements of funding monthly both place funding and top ups. Although this does not save on administration time, it does not create additional burdens either. But it will mean monies are passed on as received from the EFA so there would not be an adverse effect on the LAs cashflow.

6. High Needs Model for Change of Placement/Provision

- 6.1 James Cambell Primary School and Acorns (Ripple Primary School) ARP are a borough wide provision, the children who attend are not on these schools roll. However James Cambell Primary School and Ripple Primary School have had 12 ARP places deducted from their pupil roll to comply with funding regulations.
- 6.2 In order for James Cambell Primary School and Ripple Primary School ARP places to be fully fund for 2014-15 the proposal is to increase their top up funding, the increase for Cambell would be £4,850 and ripple £4,750 per place. Additional Funding from High Needs Block for 2014-15 will be approx £58,200 (James Cambell) £ 57,000 (Ripple), total £115,200. These increases in top will mean that James Cambell Primary School and Ripple Primary Schools will not be financially penalised for providing this preventative service.
- 6.3 The Children & Families Bill will be changing the reporting requirements of SEN children, therefore the funding requirements will require to be reviewed in 2015-16 in conjunction with the new Children & Families Bill (soon to become an Act)

(ii) Decision – Schools Forum are asked to increase the top ups for James Cambell Primary School and Ripple Primary School by £4,850 and £4,750 respectively.

6.4 The LA proposes secondary schools to be able to purchase up to 10 full-time vocational placements per academic year for Year 10 (up to 6) and Year 11 pupils (up to 4). Whilst LBBB Specialist Alternative Provision (SAP) recognises a two year commitment as being the optimum for young people, we recognise that there may be some young people who are at serious risk of exclusion or whose interest, engagement, attendance and relationships at the school decline seriously in Year 10 so that the option of a fresh start at the beginning of Year 11 presents the best opportunity of re-engagement. In order to make such a proposal financially viable for SAP schools would be expected to sign up to a 3 year commitment.

6.5 Secondary schools would contribute for the cost of the place £8,500 (annual cost) pro rata as per 6.9 below. £7,000 of this would be to fund a full-time vocational programme; the other £1500 would cover mentoring and support. Schools would need to find the difference between the pupil led funding each pupil (see 6.8 below) attracts and the total cost of £8,500. This additional cost for 2 or 3 year final arrangement will need to be paid in the first year. See example below:

6.6 Example 1: Pupil A is placed in the vocational placement in September 2014. Pupil A is then registered at SAP for the October 2014 census.

6.6.1 The school will have funding for Pupil A of £7,621 in 2014-15.

Funding element	
AWPU KS4	£5,746
Deprivation - Secondaries - FSM ever 6	£475
Secondary pupils not achieving (KS2 level 4 English or Maths)	£1,400
Total	£7,621

6.6.2 The school will be required to pay £7,424 in 2014-15 to cover the 3 year placement

Year of programme	Calculation details	
First	Two terms charges (£8,500 / 3 terms x 2 terms)	£5,666
Second	Top up (£8,500 - £7,621)	£879
Third	Top up (£8,500 - £7,621)	£879
	Total	£7,424

6.7 The funding that would be transferred would be the pupil led funding factors that the pupil receives:

Factor Details	Unit Value £
AWPU - KS3	4,609
AWPU - KS4	5,746
Deprivation - Secondaries - FSM ever 6	475
Deprivation - IDACI band 5	50
Deprivation - IDACI band 6	100
Looked After Children - LAC	100
Secondary pupils not achieving (KS2 level 4 English or Maths)	1,400
EAL - Secondaries - EAL 3	1,400
Mobility - Secondaries	700

- 6.8 The charge would apply from the beginning of the term the move is made.
- 6.8.1 Summer Term, full year charge
- 6.8.2 Autumn Term, 2 terms' charge
- 6.8.3 Spring Term, 1 term's charge

(iii) Decision – Schools Forum to agree and approve the proposed contribution mechanism for SAP

7. National Funding Formula 2015-16

- 7.1 The launch of the National Funding Formula is imminent, and we are still awaiting details.

8. EFA Timetable

Date	Action
March 2014	EFA confirms High needs allocations
June 2014	Early Years Block updated for Early Years pupils from January 2014 Census
July 2014	EFA confirms pupil premium allocations for 2014-15

9. Head Teachers Steering Group Meeting – Feedback

- 9.1 The next scheduled meeting is to be held on 24 March 2014

10. Free school meals for under 7s

- 10.1 Universal infant free school meals details and advice for LA and schools was published on 6 March 2014. **The key points are:**

10.1.1 In the 2014 to 2015 academic year schools will be paid funding at a flat rate of £2.30 for each meal taken by newly eligible pupils. Initial provisional allocations will be based on an estimate of national take-up and then

adjusted once the department has details of the actual number of meals taken in individual schools.

- 10.1.2 Additional one-off funding will be provided in the 2014 to 2015 financial year to small schools (those with fewer than 150 pupils in total) to help with transitional costs.
- 10.1.3 The government is providing £150 million of capital funding in the 2014 to 2015 financial year to support the rollout of UIFSM
- 10.1.4 Targeted advice and support will be provided to schools and local authorities through the UIFSM implementation support service <http://www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk/schoolfoodplan/uifsm>
- 10.1.5 UIFSM toolkit has been developed in partnership with the authors of the School Food Plan. The toolkit provides information for schools, local authorities and caterers preparing to scale up their school meal provision ahead of September and features helpful advice, information and case studies.
<http://www.schoolfoodplan.com/toolkit/>

10.2 Revenue Funding

- 10.2.1 Revenue funding will be based on a rate of £2.30 for each meal taken by pupils who will become newly eligible for a FSM as a result of the UIFSM policy. Schools will be expected to continue to fund meals for pupils eligible for FSMs under the existing criteria in the same way that they do currently. A new indicator on the Schools Census which will enable schools to state how many newly eligible infants (i.e. infants not eligible for free school meals under the existing criteria) are taking a FSM. This new indicator will be introduced from October 2014.
- 10.2.2 Schools will be notified of their provisional full year revenue funding allocation for the 2014 to 2015 academic year in June 2014. This payment will provide funding for the first two terms of the academic year (which represents the remainder of the 2014 to 2015 financial year).
- 10.2.3 This allocation will be based on pupil data from the January 2014 Schools Census as well as planning assumptions that (i) 87% of newly eligible pupils will take meals, and (ii) those pupils will take 190 school meals in the course of a full academic year. This provisional allocation will be **revised later** in the academic year based on actual take-up data derived from an average of the October 2014 and January 2015 Schools Censuses and the payment for the third term of the 2014 to 2015 academic year will be adjusted accordingly.
- 10.2.4 Schools with an actual take-up rate above the assumed take-up rate of 87% will have the provisional third term payment, to be made in April 2015, adjusted upwards and those below this rate will have it adjusted downwards. Those schools with low levels of take-up may receive no extra payment in the third term. We would expect the number of schools in this position to be very small.
- 10.2.5 The allocation methodology for the 2015 to 2016 academic year will be confirmed in due course. The intention is that it will be based on take-up data from the Schools Census. Funding for this policy beyond the 2015 to

2016 financial year will be considered as part of the next Spending Review, along with all other government expenditure.

10.2.6 The DfE will provide detailed terms and conditions and further advice on issues such as closing schools and the year-end accounting treatment for an academic year grant in due course.

10.3 **Further Guidance**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-infant-free-school-meals>

11. **Central Contracts**

11.1 School benefit financially from centrally negotiated council contracts, such as energy and telephones. Cost reductions for schools are obtained because of the buying power of the council and streamlined procurement processes. However the invoicing costs of administrating these contracts are not passed on to schools, when circumstances change. During the summer term LBBB will be reviewing central contracts and introducing a charge to cover administration costs due to the additional billing burden for schools not on Oracle.

12. **School Finance Web page**

12.1 A new schools finance web page has been set up which contains details of funding, financial guidance and other useful links.

<http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/Education/Pages/SchoolsFinance.aspx>

13. **Options Appraisal**

13.1 Not applicable.

14. **Consultation**

14.1 Not applicable.

15. **Financial Implications**

15.1 Contained within the Dedicated Schools Grant

16. **Legal Implications**

16.1 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.

17. Other Implications

- 17.1 **Risk Management - None**
- 17.2 **Contractual Issues - None**
- 17.3 **Staffing Issues – None**
- 17.4 **Customer Impact – None**
- 17.5 **Safeguarding Children- None**
- 17.6 **Health Issues - None**
- 17.7 **Crime and Disorder Issues – None**
- 17.8 **Property / Asset Issues – None**

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

None.

List of appendices:

None