

**(BARKING AND DAGENHAM SCHOOLS FORUM)**

**(Tuesday 6 October 2015)**

<b>Title:</b> School Forum Report	
<b>Report of:</b> CORPORATE DIRECTOR	
<b>Open</b>	<b>For Decision / For Information</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
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<b>Accountable Divisional Director:</b> Jane Hargreaves – Divisional Director (Education)	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Helen Jenner – Corporate Director (Children’s Services)	
<b>Summary:</b> The purpose of this report is to update the Barking and Dagenham Schools Forum on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. (Background)</li><li>2. Elect a Chair and Deputy Chair from within its members</li><li>3. The Dedicated Schools Grant 2015-16 budget allocation update</li><li>4. The Dedicated Schools Grant 2015-16 year end forecast position</li><li>5. Fairer Schools Funding Arrangements for 2016 to 2017 update and proposals</li><li>6. Future Cost Pressures</li><li>7. Early Years Block</li><li>8. Post 16 Funding</li><li>9. High Needs Block update</li><li>10. Future Years Dedicated Schools Grant Block requirements</li><li>11. Clothing Grant proposed saving 2016-17</li></ol>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b> The Schools Forum is asked: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) To elect a Chair and Deputy Chair from amongst Forum members (ref. 2.1.2)</li><li>(ii) To agree to develop £1.2 into the Schools Block for 2016-17 (ref. 5.6)</li><li>(iii) To agree additional lump sum (ref. 5.8.1)</li><li>(iv) To agree split site funding (ref. 5.8.2)</li><li>(v) To agree to maintain primary/secondary ratio for 2016-17 (ref. 5.8.3)</li><li>(vi) To agree to increase primary AWPU (ref. 5.8.4)</li><li>(vii) To approve de-delegated budgets, per pupil, per sector (ref. 5.8.5)</li><li>(viii) To approve, each line the centrally retained services budget (ref. 5.8.6)</li><li>(ix) To agree growth fund top slice (ref. 5.8.7)</li><li>(x) To approve Schools Facing Financial Difficulty 2016-17 (ref.5.8.8)</li><li>(xi) To agree a special School Forum meeting before 31 October 2015 (ref 5.10)</li><li>(xii) To approve DSG reserve balance in support of SEND Strategy (ref. 9.3)</li><li>(xiii) To approve the Clothing Grant saving £64k (ref.11.0)</li></ol>	
<b>Reason(s)</b> 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.
- 1.2 The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham School Forum meet five times per academic year and meetings dates were agreed at the last meeting 25 June 2015.

## 2. Barking and Dagenham Schools Forum Constitution

- 2.1.1 The Barking and Dagenham Schools Forum ("the Forum") is established in accordance with Section 47 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (as amended) and The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.
- 2.1.2 The constitution requires a Chair and Deputy Chair to be elected each year from amongst the Forum members. The Forum is asked to nominate and second a Chair and Deputy Chair from within its members.

<b>(i) Decision – to elect a Chair and Deputy Chair from amongst Forum members</b>
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### 2.2 Schools and Academy Members

At a minimum, there must be at least one representative of head teachers and one representative of governors among the Primary and Secondary groups.

- 2.2.1 At least one academies member must be a representative of mainstream academies, which includes free schools, University Technical Colleges (UTCs) and Studio Schools. In addition, there must be one member for each of the following groups (if such exist in the Local Authority (LA)) area:
- Special academies, including free schools
  - Alternative provision academies, including free schools

No. of Members	Representing	Appointed By	School Members	Designation
2	Academies/ Mainstream	Academy proprietors	Richard Micek	The Warren School
	Academies / Free School / Special	Academy proprietors	Roger Leighton ( <i>Joint Chair 2014-15</i> )	Sydney Russell
1	Special School	Special School	Peter McPartland	Trinity School
8	Primary Schools	Primary Heads	Elizabeth Chaplin ( <i>Joint Chair 2014-15</i> )	Valence Primary School
			Vacant (Governor Rep)	
			Ruth Ejvet	St. Margaret's C of E Primary School
			Brian Fox	Roding Primary School
			Martin Nicholson	Grafton Primary School

			Richard November	Northbury Junior School
			Caro Drumm	Manor Junior School
			Vacancy	
4	Secondary Schools	Secondary Heads	Ges Smith	Jo Richardson Community School
			Mark Lloyd	Barking Abbey School
			Kevin Wilson	All Saints School
			David Dickson	Eastbury Community School
1	Pupil Referral Unit	PRU Governing Body	Annie Blackmore	
<b>16</b>				

2.3 The membership of the Forum shall be broadly proportionate to the total number of schools in each category, subject to the minimum membership requirements under the Regulations.

	<b>Pupil Numbers (Jan 15)</b>	<b>No. of reps</b>
Representing		
Primary Schools	22,298	8
Secondary Schools	8,433	4
Academies & Free Schools/Special	4,724	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,455</b>	<b>14</b>
Special Schools	258 Places	1
PRU	186 Places	1
		<b>16</b>
Early Years Representative		1
Church of England Representative		1
Catholic Representative		1
14-19 Representative		1
Trade Union Representative		1
		<b>5</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>

### **3. Dedicated Schools Grant 2015-16 Budget allocation update**

3.1 Table 1: Funding blocks revised 2015-16 following confirmation of growth – July 2015

**Table 1 2015-16 DSG Funding blocks update as at July 2015**

Notes	Funding Blocks	Reported June 2015	Growth / (Deductions)	Retained c/fwd	HNB Savings	Revised Blocks
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
3.2	2 Year Old Funding	8,070	(1,847)	1,018		7,241
3.3	Early Years block	12,668	488	129		13,285
3.4	High Needs block	27,789		1,258	(1,315)	27,732
3.5	Schools block	183,594	418	696		184,960
3.6	<b>TOTAL</b>	232,121	(941)	3,101	(1,315)	<b>232,966</b>
3.7	DSG prior years carry forward balances			7,733		
3.8	TOTAL 2014-15 DSG balance			10,834		

**3.2 2 Year Old Funding**

As reported 2 year old block funding net of capitalisation as previously approved in support of '2 year old provision' within the Borough. Funding for 2 year olds will be based on participation and the published 2 year old funding annual rate is £5,016.00 per child.

**3.3 Early Years Block**

As reported early years funding plus additional area cost adjustment funding of £418k. The allocation for 2015-16 includes early years pupil premium allocation of £340k. The early years block per pupil unit of funding will be £4,052.78.

**3.4 High Needs Block**

As reported funding less £1.3m assumed savings identified from the High Needs Working Group.

**3.5 Schools Block**

As reported schools block funding, plus additional growth of £418k. The schools block guaranteed unit of funding per pupil for Barking and Dagenham is £5,575.36.

**3.6 Total DSG funding**

Revised DSG total funding of £232.966m as advised by the DfE July 2015.

**3.7 Prior Year DSG balances**

Prior year DSG balances in total £7.733m from all blocks as previously reported to School Forum and as previously approved £3.566 earmarked in support of high needs pressures.

**3.8 Total DSG balance**

Total DSG balances from 2014-15 and prior years totalling £10.834m.

**4 The Dedicated Schools Grant 2015-16 year end forecast position**

<b>4.1 Table 2 - Dedicated Schools Grant 2015-16 August 15 Monitor</b>					
<b>Notes</b>	<b>Funding Blocks</b>	<b>2015-16 Budget</b>	<b>2015-16 Outturn Forecast</b>	<b>Year End Variance</b>	<b>% Over/ (under spend)</b>
4.2	2 Year Old Funding	7,241	7,241	0	0.0%
4.3	Early Years block	13,285	13,285	0	0.0%
4.4	High Needs block	27,732	27,732	0	0.0%
4.5	Schools block	184,708	184,495	(213)	(0.1%)
4.6	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232,966</b>	<b>232,753</b>	<b>(213)</b>	<b>(0.1%)</b>
4.7	Remaining 2014-15 c/fwd			10,834	
4.8	Total 2015-16 DSG	232,966	232,753	11,047	4.7%

#### 4.2 **2 Year Old Funding**

Forecast currently on budget due to total capitalisation of £1.847m.

#### 4.3 **Early Years block**

Forecast currently on budget due to growth in provision of 3 and 4 year old provision.

#### 4.4 **High Needs Block**

Forecast on budget and reported achievement of 10% savings totalling £1.3m. Appendix A provides the detailed reporting of the high needs block forecast, and Appendix B provides an update of the Alternative Resource Provision (ARP) within the borough for 2016-17.

#### 4.5 **Schools block under spend £213k**

The forecast under spend relates to Growth Fund which is currently funding approximately 47 classes, the budget under the current criteria could support approximately 50 growth classes.

#### 4.6 **Total DSG allocation for 2015/16 £232,966.**

The budget includes £3,101m 2014-15 carry forward, see table 1.

### **5.0 Fairer Schools Funding Arrangements for 2016 to 2017**

5.1 Table 3 details the forecast for the DSG and funding requirements in preparation of setting the 2016-17 Formula.

**Table 3: 2016-17 anticipated DSG Block allocations**

	High Needs Block £'000	Early Years Block £'000	2 Year Old Provision £'000	Schools Block £'000	Total £'000
<b>DSG Block Value</b>	<b>£27,732</b>	<b>£13,285</b>	<b>£7,241</b>	<b>£184,708</b>	<b>£232,966</b>
<b>Estimated Expenditure</b>					
Top slice returned to SB				£1,200	
Non Delegated Top Slice				£767	
Growth Fund				£3,000	
School Funding Formula				£180,241	
Estimated Total Expenditure	£27,732	£13,285	£7,241	£185,208	£233,466
Estimated (under) / over spend	<b>-£500</b>	£0	£0	£500	£0 <sup>1</sup>
Estimated (increase)/decrease in EFA funding for growth				<b>-£400</b>	<b>-£400</b> <sup>2</sup>
Further reduction in High Needs through HNB Working group forecast	£500				£500 <sup>3</sup>
Application of Estimated 2015-16 earmarked carry forward	£0	£0	£0	<b>-£213</b>	<b>-£213</b> <sup>4</sup>
<b>TOTAL Pressure (contingency)</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>-£113</b>	<b>-£113</b> <sup>5</sup>

1. Estimated academic year carry forward post 16

2. Estimated net growth on school numbers

3. HNB identification of further savings to support pressures and growth fund underspend

4. Net HNB surplus plus growth fund underspend

5. Forecast surplus to support further pressures

## 5.2 National Issues

The Government is committed to developing world-class schools across the country, so that every child, everywhere, can fulfil their potential by Fairer Funding for Schools.

5.3 As part of this commitment the government pledged to protect the per pupil rate of funding each local authority receives in its school budget allocation. At the same time the government has confirmed that the additional £390m funding distributed in 2015-16 will be base-lined. The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham did not receive any of this funding due to the 'per pupil rate' being above the threshold or not within the category of 'least fairly' funded authority.

5.4 The government recognises the links between funding for early education, schools and pupils with high cost special educational needs and that these are complex issues. They have pledged to consult extensively with the sector and the public shortly.

## 5.5 Local Issues

It remains for the local authority, working with its schools forum, to decide how best to design its local formula to meet local circumstances. Local authorities will have the same freedom to set local formulae for their schools in 2016-17 as they did in 2015-16.

5.6 When completing last years model for the school funding formula, £1.2m was top-sliced from the schools block in anticipation of the high needs block (HNB) forecast expenditure, and to support future pressures; however work commenced as an action from School Forum, and the High Needs working group identified 10% savings within the 2015-16 HNB budgets, and subsequent, analysis work from Isos Partnership.

5.7 The Schools' Forum working sub group met 15<sup>th</sup> September to start modelling the proposed formula for 2016-17, and review current funding levels.

5.8 After early modelling the 2016-17 funding (table 3 above), the sub group recommended that the £1.2m is **not top-sliced** from the schools block as part of the model for 2016-17 and made proposals for School Forum to agree on inclusion of this in some of the funding factors as recommended by the sub group.

**(ii) Decision required – Schools Forum agree to develop a funding model to re-integrate the £1.2m into the schools block 2016-17 formula.**

5.8.1 **Lump sum** funding increase by £15k each school (currently £135k each school). The lump sum provides towards the minimum fixed costs of a school and takes into account such elements as leadership costs, premises and administration. The lump sum brings some stability to school budgets as it is not predicated on pupil numbers. With over 90% of the school's budget now allocated on pupil-led factors this is an important point. The 2016-17 School Revenue Funding 2016-17 operational guidance permits the lump sum to be set at a maximum £175k for both sectors.

**(iii) Decision required – Schools Forum agree to increase the lump sum factor to £150k each school.**

5.8.2 **Split Site** funding to gradually reduce the funding differences between primary and secondary sectors to £150k primary and £200k secondary (currently £100k primary and secondary £216k) and keep the criteria of split site funding, i.e., a road splits the schools sites. As in previous years, local authorities may request the inclusion of additional factors for exceptional circumstances. Additional factors may be approved in cases where the nature of the school premises gives rise to a significant additional cost greater than 1% of the school's total budget, and where such costs affect fewer than 5% of the schools (including academies) in the authority.

**(iv) Decision required – Schools Forum agree to revising the split site funding to primary £150k and secondary sector £200k.**

5.8.3 To maintain the **primary/secondary ratio** to 1:1:30 as per the London average and as the LBBB consultation exercise last year. It is not expected that local authorities

must conform to the ratio but they should be aware of where they are within the range, and it is proposed to continue this ratio until the implementation of the Funding Reform.

**(v) Decision required – Schools Forum agree to maintain the primary/secondary ratio to 1:1:30.**

5.8.4 To model an increase in the primary Age Weighted Pupil Unit (**AWPU**) by £25 subject to affordability and maintaining the ratio of 1:1:30

**(vi) Decision required – Schools Forum agree to increase the primary AWPU subject to affordability and maintaining the ratio.**

5.8.5 To maintain **de-delegated budgets** as 2015-16, apart from Schools facing Financial Difficulties due to several loans issued last year:-

Description	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	Per pupil (£)	Total (£)	Per pupil (£)	Total (£)	Per pupil (£)	Total (£)
Schools in Financial Difficulty	-£30.74	-£1,000,005	-£16.06	-£499,998	-£7.05	-£250,000
School Specific Contingency	-£9.93	-£323,034	-£10.37	-£322,849	-£9.11	-£322,849
Free school meals eligibility	-£1.54	-£50,098	-£1.61	-£50,124	-£1.41	-£50,124
Support for Trade Union duties	-£9.99	-£324,985	-£10.44	-£325,029	-£9.17	-£325,029
	<b>-£52.20</b>	<b>-£1,698,122</b>	<b>-£38.48</b>	<b>-£1,198,000</b>	<b>-£26.74</b>	<b>-£948,002</b>

**(vii) Decision required – Schools Forum approve the indicative de-delegated budgets on the per pupil basis, per sector.**

5.8.6 **Central Services** proposal to continue centrally retained budgets as Appendix C, and budgets remain the same as 2015-16 apart from licences/subscriptions that are purchased directly by the DfE and recharged to local authorities. These have increased to £143k for 2016-17 compared with £60k for 2015-16.

**(viii) Decision required – Schools Forum approve (each line) of the centrally retained services budgets as listed in Appendix C.**

5.8.7 **Growth Fund** proposal to continue to top slice £3m to support schools which are required to provide extra places in order to meet basic need within the local authority.

**(ix) Decision required – Schools Forum agree to top slice £3m in support of growth classes (c50 classes) within the local authority.**

5.8.8 **Schools Facing Financial Difficulty**

The Schools Facing Financial Difficulty sub group meeting has been rescheduled to meet. Appendix D attached provides an update.



**(x) Decision required – Schools Forum agree to top slice DSG £250k in support of Schools Facing Financial Difficulty 2016-17.**

5.9 The working sub group concluded that the formula should still be committed to the key principles laid down for the local formula:

- To target as much funding as possible through pupil led factors
- To target as much funding as is appropriate and possible towards pupils with additional educational needs
- To develop a funding formula that delivers the fairest distribution of funding for the majority of schools
- To minimise dependency on Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) in preparation for movements to a National Funding Formula
- To retain the principle of the scaling and capping of overall gains if necessary to afford the formula

5.10 To model after October census is complete and meet to review the outcomes of the funding proposals with the latest pupil census subject to School Forum agreement.

**(xi) Decision required – Schools Forum agree to reconvene a special Schools Forum meeting to review and agree the 2016-17 funding model(s) before submission to the DfE - Proposed date 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015 10:00 – 12:00**

## 6.0 **Cost Pressures on Schools over the Next Few Years**

The DSG funds schools on a 'Cash flat per pupil' and in real terms, as reported cuts of at least 12% (*source: Institute of Fiscal Studies*). This takes account of:

- (a) increases in employer contributions to teacher pension scheme in April 2015 (14.1% to 16.5%)
- (b) ending of contracting out from State Second Pension in April 2016 increases National Insurance Contributions (10.1% to 13.8%)
- (c) upward pressure on public sector pay levels; Office for Budget Responsibility expects public sector pay to rise by 14% between 2014/15 and 2019/20
- (d) general inflationary pressure

6.1 In addition to these pressures, schools and providers across the whole education community will need to assess the impact of the new national living wage and changing local demographics. New providers are also coming on stream offering greater choice and diversity for parents and pupils.

6.2 Increased growth within the borough and place led demand for school places including SEND children, especially from early years sectors.

## 7.0 **Early Years Block**

In the summer the government announced changes to the entitlement to free childcare for parents of 3 and 4 year olds, doubling the entitlement from 15 hours

per week over 38 weeks to 30 hours per week for eligible parents and due to be introduced from 2016-17. The Childcare Bill 2015 was presented 2 June 2015, 12 months earlier than originally planned.

- 7.1 On top of this, the government also committed to increase the average childcare funding rates paid to providers. The Department for Education launched a “call for evidence” into the costs of providing childcare and responses were encouraged from across the sector as well as local authorities. A response was submitted by the local authority Early Years team, and response on the consultation is: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/435115/Cost\\_of\\_childcare\\_call\\_for\\_evidence\\_-\\_consultation\\_document.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/435115/Cost_of_childcare_call_for_evidence_-_consultation_document.pdf)

## **8.0 Post 16 Funding**

Nationally funding for Further Education and Sixth Forms has reduced by 13.6% since 2010, due to changes in reporting of lagged number funding.

- 8.1 This has had a significant impact on the educational offer for sixth formers, particularly in 11-16 schools.

## **9.0 High Needs**

Like other local authorities, the pressures on the high needs budgets are increasing as the number of complex, high cost placements grow. There is no additional funding from central government to meet this demand – the costs have to be managed within existing resources and other local authorities are moving funding across the notional Schools, and Early Years blocks.

- 9.1 In the summer of 2014 the Department for Education (DfE) commissioned the Isos Partnership to undertake research into SEN funding arrangements and practices. The aim of this research was to provide insights into the way funding for young people with SEN(D) is spent, the reasons for differences between spending patterns in different local authorities, and the options for changing the ways in which high needs funding is distributed in the future. The full findings can be found on the website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/funding-for-children-and-young-people-with-send>

## **9.2 LBBB High Needs Block (HNB) Working Sub Group**

The Schools Forum HNB working sub group met early this year and consequently proposed 10% cuts (£1.3m) within the HNB for 2015-16 budgets. These were set with budget holders and cost centre managers. Work commenced on achieving these; yet further work is required to maintain and manage the pressures within the HNB funding envelope. The 2015-16 savings and under spends are currently supporting known pressures based upon the ongoing work that has been managed so far this year.

- 9.3 As part of the discussions of the School' Forum working sub group meeting 15<sup>th</sup> September, the sub group proposed further detailed work on the HNB and in support of schools increasing numbers of complex, high cost children placed in schools to utilise some of the funding from the DSG reserve balance (£10.834m). Estimations are c£3m from the reserve balance in support to schools via the HNB, but further modelling work needs to be undertaken. The funding will be in

conjunction of the local authority SEND Strategy, utilising the Isos Partnership research project and working with schools to support statutory age children in mainstream schools to improve outcomes with no exclusions on children with statements /health and care plans.

**(xii) Decision required – Schools Forum approves use of funding from the DSG reserve to the HNB (1 year) to model additional support in conjunction with the LA SEND Strategy.**

9.4 A proposed HNB working group meeting is planned for 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015, 2pm to 4pm, subject to diary commitments and an update of the working group will be reported to the next School Forum meeting in January 2016.

## 10.0 Future year's DSG requirements

10.1 Based on the following assumptions the DSG blocks pressures/ (contingency) have been forecast.

- Only the net income from pupil growth has been factored into the figures based on the difference between the guaranteed unit of funding received and the average funding given to schools per pupil;
- Expenditure and DSG income (except pupil growth) will continue at current levels;
- The new special free school will attract top up funding of c£16k - £19k per place, with 30 places starting each September, and due to pressures an extra 6 places has identified from the new academic year 2016-17. This additional pressure will require to be managed within the HNB funding envelope, and has been modelled based upon this assumption;
- Post 16 and lagged number funding plus growth of young people with SEND is forecasting future pressure;
- HNB pressures will be managed and savings utilised to support these pressures/ demands;
- Continuation of the 'out of borough work' within the HNB could lead to in-house demand for places;
- Assumptions have been made with regards to the national funding formula that will result in minor turbulence or a phased (with protection) on each of the funding blocks.

10.2 Table 5 below details 2015-19 DSG forecast position

<b>Table 5 - DSG forecast 2015-2019</b>	<b>High Needs Block £'000</b>	<b>Early Years Block £'000</b>	<b>2 Year Old Provision £'000</b>	<b>School Block £'000</b>	<b>Total £'000</b>	<b>School Forum Reporting £'000</b>
Total DSG balance cfwd						£7.733
Actual under spend 2014-15	£1.258	£0.129	£2.015	£0.696	£4.098	
LESS Capitalisation			-£0.997		-£0.997	
<b>Actual 2014-15 outturn surplus reported</b>	<b>£1.258</b>	<b>£0.129</b>	<b>£1.018</b>	<b>£0.696</b>	<b>£3.101</b>	<b>£10.834</b>
Forecast outturn 2015-16	£0	£0	£0	-£0.213	-£0.213	£11.047
LESS SEND Strategy						-£3.000
<b>DSG balance 2015-16</b>						<b>£8.047</b>
HNB pressures						
- Riverside	£0.500				£0.500	
- Post 16	£0.500				£0.500	
HNB savings (proposal)	-£0.500				-£0.500	
SB growth				-£0.400	-£0.400	
<b>TOTAL 2016-17 Pressure (contingency) cfwd to 2017-18</b>	<b>£0.500</b>	<b>£0.000</b>	<b>£0.000</b>	<b>-£0.613</b>	<b>-£0.113</b>	<b>£8.160</b>
Pressure de-delegated				£0.378	£0.378	
Pressure EYRS		£0.200			£0.200	
HNB pressure	£1.000				£1.000	
SB growth				-£0.400	-£0.400	
<b>TOTAL 2017-18 Pressure (contingency) cfwd to 2018-19</b>	<b>£1.500</b>	<b>£0.200</b>	<b>£0.000</b>	<b>-£0.635</b>	<b>£1.065</b>	<b>£7.095</b>
Pressure de-delegated				£0.871	£0.871	
Pressure EYRS		£0.200			£0.200	
HNB pressure	£1.000				£1.000	
SB growth				-£0.400	-£0.400	
<b>19 Pressure (contingency) cfwd to</b>	<b>£2.500</b>	<b>£0.400</b>	<b>£0.000</b>	<b>-£0.164</b>	<b>£2.736</b>	<b>£4.359</b>

## 11.0 Clothing Grant 2016-17

At the Children's Trust meeting 30 June 2015 a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) General fund saving CEX/SAV/51 £64,000 was discussed with regards to the removal of funding for clothing grant to parents. A proposal was, for this to be supported from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) with effect from 2016/17.

### 11.1 Current Process and Eligibility Criteria for Clothing Grant

A simple claim form is completed and there are 4 eligible year groups that can claim each year, however each year group has a date of birth range attached to it so a child does have to be in that year group and their date of birth must fall between the relevant dates to be eligible to claim:

**Table 6:**

<b>Year/age range:</b>	<b>Date of Birth:</b>
Year 11 (age 15-16)	01.09.1998 31.08.1999
Year 10 (age 14-15)	01.09.1999 31.08.2000
Year 9 (age 13-14)	01.09.2000 31.08.2001
Year 8 (age 12-13)	01.09.2001 31.08.2002
<b>Year 7 (age 11-12) **£45.00**</b>	<b>01.09.2002 31.08.2003 Eligible</b>
Year 6 (age 10-11)	01.09.2003 31.08.2004
<b>Year 5 (age 9-10) **£15.00**</b>	<b>01.09.2004 31.08.2005 Eligible</b>
Year 4 (age 8-9)	01.09.2005 31.08.2006
<b>Year 3 (age 7-8) **£15.00**</b>	<b>01.09.2006 31.08.2007 Eligible</b>
Year 2 (age 6-7)	01.09.2007 31.08.2008
Year 1 (age 5-6)	01.09.2008 31.08.2009
<b>Reception (age 4-5) **£15.00**</b>	<b>01.09.2009 31.08.2010 Eligible</b>

### 11.2 Proposal and Issues

The saving from the general fund is not a large monetary saving but significant amongst parents and carers with the proposal to withdraw the scheme of funding within Barking and Dagenham. If implemented, essentially the Council would be asking schools to support families with purchasing uniform and footwear from their school delegated budget.

11.3 The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has high levels of deprivation. It has the 7th highest proportion of children living in low income families and has been identified as the 7th most deprived borough in London (out of the 32 boroughs in the capital).

### 11.4 Options Appraisal

Schools budgets are supported from the DSG via delegated funding directly to schools via the Schools Block funding and within the DSG is an element that the council retains to support statutory services or referred to as 'centrally funded'.

11.5 The DSG and permissible grant expenditure has changed since 2012/13 within the Government's agenda of School Funding Reform, the central budget is set as at 2012/13 prices and can no longer be increased and has always been subject of approval and scrutiny at School Forum. Therefore this expenditure £64,000 would not be allowable to charge under the recent changes to the DSG of the central budget.

11.6 The central funding of the DSG has to be approved each financial year at budget setting and agreed on the allocation based upon a 'per pupil' element by School

Forum and reported to the Department for Education (DfE) also reported within the Council's Statement of Accounts.

**11.7 Consultation**

As reported to the Children's Trust, consultation would have to be with schools to support this saving from their individual delegated budgets and would have to be via School Forum.

***(xiii) Decision required – Schools Forum approve the CEX/SAV 51 £64k and to use their own delegated funding in support of the clothing grant, in accordance with table 6 (above) eligibility criteria.***

**12 Options Appraisal**

12.1 Not applicable.

**13 Consultation**

13.1 Not applicable.

**14 Financial Implications**

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

**15 Legal Implications**

15.1 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.

**16 Other Implications**

16.1 **Risk Management** - None

16.2 **Contractual Issues** - None

16.3 **Staffing Issues** – None

16.4 **Customer Impact** – None

16.5 **Safeguarding Children**- None

16.6 **Health Issues** - None

16.7 **Crime and Disorder Issues** – None

16.8 **Property / Asset Issues** – None

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

None.

**List of appendices:**

Appendix A – High needs block monitor 2015-16

Appendix B – Alternative Resource Provision 2016-17

Appendix C – Centrally retained Services 2016-17

Appendix D – Schools Facing Financial Difficulty 2015-16