

1: Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Jenny Sims, welcomed those present: Jamie Bean; Councillor Rob Beck; Vicki Bell; Emma Bradshaw; Nathan Cole; James Kearns; Peter Naudi; Sue Smith, Havard Spring; and the Vice Chair, Andrew Theobald.

2A: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Bec Allot, Councillor Jane Pascoe, Sharon Roberts, and Emma Walford.

2B: Declarations of Interest

Jamie Bean declared that he was Chair of Governors for Carew Academy. The Chair declared that she was a non-executive director of Cognus.

3: Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 October 2022 be agreed as an accurate record subject to it being recorded that Sue Smith sent apologies for absence for the meeting.

4: Urgent Business and Other Matters

There was no urgent business.

5: Revenue Report

The Strategic Finance Business Partner introduced the report.

The Forum noted that the forecasted Discretionary Schools Grant overspend had now reached £621,000 and that a breakdown of the forecast would be presented to the next meeting of the Forum.

The Forum noted the proposal for a disapplication request of approximately £47,000 to include the rental cost for Nonsuch Primary School in the 2023/24 DSG Schools Block Allocation and that the decision on this proposal would be taken by the Secretary of State. The Forum noted that this request existed as this was a Sutton maintained school situated in the county of Surrey and that similar arrangements were in place for schools maintained by other local authorities but situated within the London Borough of Sutton.

The Forum noted that early retirement costs had reduced slightly in the current financial year and was based on actual expenditure in the previous year. The Forum noted that these costs would decrease over time. The Forum noted that independent school fees were for contributions to the costs of supporting Looked After Children.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the latest position on the DSG for 2022/23, as at November 2022 (month 8).

2. To note the decision regarding a disapplication request to include the rental cost for Nonsuch Primary School in the 2023/24 DSG Schools Block Allocation.

6: Draft Discretionary Schools Grant (DSG) Budget 2023-24

The Acting Strategic Lead for Education introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

1. Schools Forum approved:

- the proposed growth funding; £565k (subject to final modelling in the APT)
- funding for places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils - no change from 2022/23 (£150k) - but wanted further information on how this funding was being used and a breakdown.
- the proposed funding for the admissions service (£349k same value as last year with 0.8% uplift)
- the costs of servicing of Schools Forum - £16k - no change from 2022/23
- the contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools - £627k
- the contribution to combined budgets (LSCP) -£15k same as last year
- the historic commitments (Termination of Employment Costs and Prudential Borrowing);
- the transfer of up to £200k from the Schools Block to the CSSB for 2023/24 (though it was noted that this was only an estimate subject to APT modelling).

2. Schools Forum noted:

- the National Funding Formula Factors for 2023/24 for mainstream school
- The Forum noted that the £8,300 costs for the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education covered meeting costs and requested that further detail on these costs would be provided to the Schools Forum.

3. Schools Forum recommended that:

- All schools should see an increase of 3% in line with the minimum funding guarantee on 2021/22 - including those settings that may have seen a like for like reduction in their funding from the introduction of the new funding model from September 2022.
- Officers should work up 'option 1b' so that the funding factors in the Specialist funding model are increased to the value of the new 2022/23 rates for M6 and NJC9 (keeping other funding factors the same) but to cap the total additional funding gain any setting can make to 3.4% using an affordability factor. Where the model doesn't deliver a 3.4% increase then the lower figure will be used. Given the condition of grant, a disapplication should be sought from the Secretary of State for those settings where this option does not fully pass on the 3.4% uplift.
- 3.4% uplift should be passed on to AP providers
- increase the hourly rates paid for support staff by 3.4%

7: Preventing School Exclusions

The Service Manager for Early Help and Integrated Youth Justice Service introduced the report.

The below was agreed subject to consultation with schools and that the final proposal must emphasise early intervention.

RESOLVED:

1. To continue to commission the Early Help and Integrated Youth Justice Service edge of exclusion support for pupils next year from the DSG, based on the same amount of £110,000.
2. To commission EHIYJS workers attached to schools - to double the number of dedicated Specialist Support Workers to four and attach these workers to specific schools. Further management capacity would be required to support these additional workers and time for recruitment would need to be factored in. Cost: £142,500 (+£110,000 DSG)
3. To commission Limes College - Turnaround Plus - this programme would support 30 secondary age pupils per year, specifically targeting key Stage 3 pupils. Cost £53,237 per annum

8: Early Years Funding Formulae Update

The Early Years Commissioning Manager introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

1. To review and discuss the options for the quality supplement criteria in Appendix A that have been developed based on current DfE guidance.
2. To note the updated operational guidance is not yet available to provide clarity on the application of the quality supplement.
3. To agree to proceed with option 2 'in principle' following the final release of guidance by the DfE, and to consult with the early years sector early in the new year.

9: Capital Report

The Acting Head of Pupil Based Commissioning introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the summary of developments against the primary, secondary and special expansion programmes.

9: Confidential Session

There was no confidential business.

The meeting ended at 20:36.

New meeting dates to be circulated.