

NOTICE OF MEETING

Schools Forum

Thursday 25 February 2010, 4.30 pm

Council Chamber, Fourth Floor, Easthampstead House, Bracknell

To: The Schools Forum

SCHOOLS MEMBERS

Secondary School Representatives:

Keith Grainger
Gordon Cunningham
Bob Elsey

Primary School Representatives:

Joanna Quinn
Gill Harbut
Trisha Donkin

Primary Governors:

Brian Francis
Ed Glasson
Kelvin Menon
Tony Reading
John Throssell

Secondary Governor:

Maureen Beadsley
Orrie Dempsey
Brian Fries

Special Education Governor:

Anne Shillcock

NON-SCHOOLS MEMBERS

Union Representative:

George Clement (Chairman)

Diocese Representatives:

Gordon Anderson (Vice-Chairman)
Urzula Topp

**Early Years, Childcare & Play
Partnership:**

Kate Sillett

PVI Provider Representatives:

14-19 Partnership Representative:

Vacant

Observer:

Steve Lambert (LSC)

ALISON SANDERS
Director of Corporate Services

EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 If you hear the alarm, leave the building immediately.
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If you require further information, please contact: Liz Sanneh
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Published: 17 February 2010

Schools Forum
Thursday 25 February 2010, 4.30 pm
Council Chamber, Fourth Floor, Easthampstead House, Bracknell

AGENDA

Page No

19. Apologies for Absence/Substitute Members

To receive apologies for absence and to note the attendance of any substitute members.

20. Declarations of Interest

Members are required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests and the nature of that interest, in respect of any matter to be considered at the meeting.

21. Minutes and Matters Arising

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 28 January 2010.

1 - 6

22. Audit Commission School Survey 2009 and Services to Schools Survey 2009

To receive a report to inform members of the Schools Forum of the results of firstly, the 2009 Audit Commission School Survey and secondly, the Services to Schools Survey 2009, and to seek any comments

7 - 22

23. 2010-2011 Standards Fund and other allocations to schools for school improvement

To receive a report to provide information to members of the Forum in respect of allocations made to schools and those planned to be made from the Standards Fund and other budgets that support school improvement.

23 - 36

24. Local Authority Proposals for the 2010-2011 Schools Budget

To receive a report to update members of the Schools Forum on the Schools Budget for 2010-11 and to seek their views.

37 - 54

25. Any Other Business

26. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Schools Forum will be on 29 April 2010.



**SCHOOLS FORUM
28 JANUARY 2010
4.30 - 6.00 PM**

Present:

Mr George Clement, Voice
Mrs Maureen Beadsley, Secondary School Governors
Brian William Francis, Bracknell Forest Schools
Brian Fries, Secondary School Governors
Ed L Glasson, Bracknell Forest Schools
Keith Grainger, Garth Hill Secondary School
Joanna Quinn, Wooden Hill Primary School
Tony Reading, Primary School Governors
Mrs Anne Shillcock, Special Education Governor
John Throssell, Bracknell Forest Schools

In Attendance:

Martin Gocke, Acting Director, Children, Young People and Learning
Bob Welch, Chief Advisor - Learning and Achievement
David Watkins, Chief Officer, Performance and Resources
Paul Young, Head of Finance, Performance and Resources

Apologies for absence were received from:

Gordon Cunningham
Orrie Dempsey
Robert Elsey
Steve Lambert

10. Apologies for Absence/Substitute Members

Apologies were received from Gordon Cunningham, Steve Lambert, Bob Elsey and Orrie Dempsey.

11. Declarations of Interest

Gordon Anderson declared an interest as he was a member of the temporary Governing Body at Jennett's Park School. He agreed not to enter into discussion on the item concerning the Schools Budget proposals.

12. Minutes and Matters Arising

Gordon Anderson pointed out that his name had not been listed under apologies for the meeting on 22 October. With this amendment, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13. **Broadband and internet services for schools**

Bob Welch, Chief Advisor - Learning and Achievement, introduced the report on Broadband and Internet services for schools. He told the Forum that the internet was used in schools for teaching, learning and communication. The contract for provision of these services would end this year, and the Council was looking to improve provision to Primary schools at a speed of 10 mbs, and to Secondary schools at a speed of 100 mbs, and these improvements were based on increasing use in schools. The current centrally organised and managed contract had delivered a good service and no schools had indicated that they wish not to be included in the new arrangements.

The Council had invited firms to tender for the contract, and four providers had been shortlisted. There was a Service Level Agreement between all schools and the LA for the provision of a broadband internet service. The funding for this provision came from the schools revenue budgets and a DCSF IT grant; it was hoped that the improvements could be met for a similar cost but with an improved service. Some technical improvements would be made, and there was likely to be a need for some digging to put in cables for some primary schools which currently had a copper wire connection. The contract out to tender was for providing cabling into the school sites. The improved service would be faster, more robust, heavily filtered, and with an escalation system if things went wrong.

A further paper will be prepared for the Schools Forum with details of the outcome of the procurement exercise, the levels of service provision, costs to schools and other relevant matters.

The Forum **RESOLVED**

- (i) to agree the arrangements for the procurement of the broadband and internet contract for schools;
- (ii) that the 2010-11 Harnessing Technology Grant be retained by the LA to the value sufficient to fund the associated capital works arising from the new contract.

14. **Bracknell Forest Council Proposals for the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF)**

The Head of Finance, Performance and Resources introduced the Council's proposals for the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF). The circulated papers gave the background to the initial proposals and the changes now being suggested, with a presentation at the meeting outlining the key issues. Information papers have previously been presented to the Forum, and it was now proposed that the early years funding formula would have a single hourly base rate, which would aid financial planning, and include top-ups where providers met the qualifying criteria for deprivation (a mandatory requirement), quality (as measured through staff qualifications), and increased flexibility of provision.

The Forum heard that there had been good engagement with providers, and following the consultation, analysis of the results had been undertaken, and some improvements had been identified that should be built into the Formula. All of the proposals in the report were supported by the Provider Representative Group.

Mrs Shillcock commended the staff for their excellent work, and was informed, in response to her question about whether there would be any transitional funding, that the Council would protect those who would be losing the most by phasing the changes over three years. There would also be a sustainability fund to act as a safety net, and there had been recognition from the providers that this was the best overall scheme available. In response to a question about the qualification issue, Karen Frost, Early Years Manager, told the Forum that those who wanted to improve their qualifications could attend courses as there were currently 100% bursaries available for training needs.

The Forum **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the responses to the consultation proposals on the Bracknell Forest Council Early Years Single Funding Formula at Annexes A and B be NOTED together with the summary of outcomes and key comments at paragraphs 5.9 to 5.27;
- (b) That the Bracknell Forest Council Early Years Single Funding Formula should be as set out in the consultation document, amended for the changes detailed in paragraphs 5.31 to 5.38;
- (c) That the proposals for the other finance related matters that were supported through the responses to the consultation as set out in paragraph 5.8 be AGREED;
- (d) That the financial implications envisaged, based on 2008-09 data as set out in paragraphs 5.39 to 5.42 be included in the proposals for the 2010-11 Schools Budget;
- (e) That an application be made to the DCSF for the Early Years Single Funding Formula to be implemented in April 2010 through the Pathfinder route (paragraph 5.47).

15. **2010-11 Schools Budget Proposals and other financial items**

The Head of Finance, Performance and Resources introduced the report on the Schools Budget proposals, which had been circulated. He told the meeting that the Forum was asked to review and comment on the preliminary budget proposals from the Council, and to identify any further work which needed to be done before final decisions would be taken on the budget at the February meeting..

The Schools budget was funded by government grant, who set the amount of funding to be received by the Council, was ring-fenced, and clearly defined. It was published in three year periods, and for 2010-11, it was proposed that the funding would rise by 4.6% per pupil. Priorities were set by national government but each LA can determine to where resources are allocated.

An estimate of the increase in funds had been undertaken, and this would be adjusted when more up to date data is available in February. To allow for the management of potential budget risks, £0.240m had been set aside and would not be allocated for spending. To help plan spending priorities, the Forum had agreed a budget strategy, and this had been used by the Council in formulating the proposals. This had been aligned to the majority wishes of schools, as set out in responses to the Financial Consultation that were undertaken in November as part of the budget planning process. This allowed schools to receive indicative budgets last year to help with their initial budget setting processes.

At this stage of building the budget, the preliminary proposals allow for all unavoidable pressures, the new developments identified by schools and £0.080m of new funding to be added for administrative pressures as requested at the December Headteachers meeting. After these allocations, there remained £0.175m of funding outstanding that was also allocated to schools.

The Forum agreed that the proposals being made by the Council were supported and that no more work was required before final decisions would be taken in February.

In response to questions from Forum members, it was reported that the estimated number of pupils for 2010-11 would be around 14,500, but precise numbers could not yet be confirmed and therefore the estimated income to the Schools Budget had been reduced by 55 pupils as a contingency for error or unexpected cost increases. On the question regarding whether meals provided under the Caterhouse contract had increased over the last year, this data was now available and over the year indicated a 17% increase in meals provided. On this basis, it is appropriate to retain the £0.020m saving proposed on this item in line 1 of Table 4.

The final question asked if, in view of the recession, provision had been made for the financial impact arising from the probable increase in free school meals provision and it was confirmed that a provisional £0.060m had been set aside for this purpose.

The Chairman asked Forum members to support the Council in the proposed recommendations, and it was unanimously **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the estimated increase in income of £2.895m as set out in Line 13 of Table 2 (paragraph 5.19) be NOTED.
- (ii) That by applying the agreed budget objectives to the estimated level of available resources, that funding for the following budget proposals be SUPPORTED:
 - a) the unavoidable budget pressures estimated at £2.053m as set out in Table 3 (paragraph 5.23);
 - b) the economies and new budget developments estimated at £0.841m as set out in Table 4 (paragraph 5.29);
 - c) the £0.036m budget pressure relating to the Education Health Partnership and families facing domestic abuse at line 9 of Table 4 be classified as a Combined Services Budget (paragraph 5.32);
 - d) the inflation allowances set out in Annex F, the cost of which is included in the pressures and developments listed in Tables 3 and 4;
- (iii) That the annual uplift in payment to Early Years providers be set at the average increase in per pupil funding received by schools through the Funding Formula, currently estimated at 3.3% (paragraph 5.33).
- (iv) That to set the proposed budget, it was NOTED that the Council was likely to seek permission to exceed the central expenditure limit (paragraph 5.53).
- (v) That the following changes to school funding arrangements be AGREED:
 - a) Funding allocated to secondary schools based on test results moves over time to use 5 years of Key Stage 2 data (paragraph 5.45);

- b) Funding allocated to secondary schools based on pupil eligibility to a free school meal continue to be based on January 2008 data, pending review from the 2010 census which may indicate a further amendment (paragraph 5.47);
- (vi) That funding adjustments be made to the Kennel Lane Special School budget at the point of any changes in Band 5 pupils occur, rather than adjusting only from the termly census returns (paragraph 5.49);
- (vii) That the Minimum Funding Guarantee payment to Brakenhale, currently estimated at £0.171m, be phased out in equal amounts over the next three years, with the savings re-distributed within the Schools Budget (paragraph 5.52).
- (viii) That the arrangements in place for the following are AGREED as appropriate (paragraph 5.59):
 - a. provisions for statemented pupils.
 - b. pupil referral units and other education out of school.
 - c. arrangements for insurance.
 - d. administrative arrangements for the allocation of central government grants.
 - e. arrangements for free school meals.
- (ix) That the extent to which the Forum be expected to be requested to exercise its statutory powers be NOTED (paragraph 5.61).
- (x) In order that final budgets reflect the most up to date data, it was NOTED that there would be a need to revisit any preliminary budget decisions agreed now in February (paragraph 5.68).
- (xi) Any further work required by the Forum in respect of the 2010-11 budget be AGREED now (paragraph 5.68).
- (xii) The Forum should note the potential budget pressures that could arise in 2011-12 (paragraphs 5.62 to 5.66).

16. **Local Authority Budget Proposals for 2010-11**

The Chief Officer: Performance and Resources introduced the report, which had been circulated and was divided between proposals relating to revenue and those relating to capital.

Regarding the revenue budget, the Forum was asked to note that with the economic downturn, the Council's revenue had suffered with less income from leisure and car parking, and lower interest on Bracknell Forest Council's investments and that in order for the Council to balance its budget, £3.2m of economies are required. Annex A listed the department commitments, and Annex B gave proposed developments and economies in the department.

The capital budget set out Council-funded items for the department, which amounted to £1.065m, with individual scheme proposals set out in Annex C. In addition, a significant amount was being received by the department through capital grants, which were ring-fenced for specific purposes, and these were outlined in the accompanying report.

In response to questions, the Chief Officer explained that although there was Section 106 money available, it was not yet clear where this would be spent; it might be earmarked for an area, but not yet designated to particular projects within that area, and although some of this might come to education, the infrastructure projects would also need funding. He also explained that if the money earmarked for Kennel Lane School was not used by the end of the period, it would be reallocated. He also reminded the Forum that figures in the report were indicative figures, and with regard to proposals around schools capital work, would need to be confirmed and planning permission sought.

The Forum **RESOLVED** that it had no comments on the 2010/11 budget proposals of the Executive in respect of the Children, Young People and Learning Department for:

- i. The revenue budget (Annex B), and
- ii. The capital programme (Annex C) be passed on to the Executive member.

17. **Any Other Business**

Ed Glasson asked about the level of exclusions within Bracknell Forest schools, and how they compared with other education authorities. The Head of Finance, Performance and Resources told the Forum that this information was not readily available, but he would add the information to the minutes of the meeting for circulation. Mr Glasson asked that it be added as an agenda item to a future meeting for discussion about numbers and the costs of setting up an exclusion unit.

18. **Dates of Future Meetings**

The Head of Finance, Performance and Resources reminded the Forum that the next meeting would take place on 25 February 2010, and at that meeting the members would be asked to make decisions to go to the Executive Member and that these would be based on the proposals outlined in this report.

TO: SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE 25 FEBRUARY 2010

AUDIT COMMISSION SCHOOL SURVEY 2009
SERVICES TO SCHOOLS SURVEY 2009
(Acting Director of Children, Young People & Learning)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Schools Forum of the results of firstly, the 2009 Audit Commission School Survey and secondly, the Services to Schools Survey 2009 and to seek any comments.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Schools Forum **NOTES** the summary results from both the 2009 Audit Commission School Survey (Annexes A, B and paragraph 5.3 below and the 'Services to Schools 2009 Survey' (Annex C and paragraph 5.4 below) and makes appropriate comments.
- 2.2 That the Schools Forum **NOTES** that, as indicated last year, the 2009 Audit Commission School Survey has changed considerably. Most notably the rating scale has been reversed and now reflects Ofsted ratings as follows:

Excellent (4)
Good (3)
Adequate (2)
Poor (1)

The 2009 survey is shorter and now reflects 'local services' in addition to specific council services. In 2009 we included no questions about our buyback services in the Audit Commission Survey but conducted a separate online survey of all 'Services to Schools' in-house.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is appropriate for the Forum to consider results from both surveys on schools' views on the services provided by the Council and other local services and to make its own comments.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The Audit Commission undertakes a survey of schools' views of the quality of services provided by Bracknell Forest Council and other local services. The survey is significant

as the results inform both the Council's overall external assessment of performance, as determined through the Comprehensive Area Assessment, and the OFSTED local authority inspection. As such the survey provides vital feedback to Council and other local services on their performance.

5.2 This year's core survey contained 63 questions arranged in 6 sections as follows:

Be healthy (6)
Stay safe (10)
Enjoy and achieve (17)
Make a positive contribution (4)
Achieve economic wellbeing (4)
Strategic management (22)

Because of the change in the rating scale, direct comparisons with the 2008 survey are not possible.

5.3 Schools were asked to rate performance against each question on a scale of

Excellent (4) Good (3) Adequate (2) Poor (1)

therefore the higher the average score the better. The Audit Commission provides analysis of the results of which a summary indicates the following:

Of the 63 questions in the survey, Bracknell Forest was rated:

- between Good and Excellent on 12
- Good on 3
- between Adequate and Good on 47
- Adequate on 1

Annex A provides more detailed analysis of the main survey results, and the Summary Report at Annex B lists the individual questions and responses.

5.4 In summer 2009 as part of our performance monitoring we conducted an in-house survey online of all the services schools are able to buy back in Bracknell Forest. Formerly these questions were incorporated in the Audit Commission Survey as 'local questions'. Eighteen schools participated in this survey. In future this survey will be conducted every 3 years, prior to the renewal process for schools. The survey revealed no major causes for concern (all services achieved an average rating above 3) but any individual low ratings have been investigated by Service Heads. The results of this survey are set out in Annex C.

5.5 In 2009, 24 out of 38 (63%) Bracknell Forest schools responded to the Audit Commission Survey, (21 primary and 3 secondary schools), a slight improvement on 2008. However, we were still well above the national average response rate, which was only 29%.

Conclusion

5.6 Bracknell Forest typically achieves excellent results in the Audit Commission School Survey and 2009 appears to be equally positive. The next survey in 2011 will allow comparisons to be made and any changes in performance to be monitored.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this survey.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from this report.

Impact Assessment

6.3 There are no specific impact assessments arising from this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 There are no specific strategic risk management issues arising from this report

Other Officers

6.5 There are no issues arising from this report that are relevant to other officers.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 Schools.

Method of Consultation

7.2 Online survey.

Representations Received

7.3 Response to the Audit Commission.

Background Papers

Audit Commission Schools Survey 2009
Services to Schools Survey 2009

Contact for further information

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NewAlluse\Executive\Schools Forum\43) 101209\Audit Commission School Survey 2009 - Annex B.doc
NewAlluse\Executive\Schools Forum\43) 101209\Audit Commission School Survey 2009 - Annex C.doc

SCHOOL SURVEY 2009 - SUMMARY

AUDIT COMMISSION SCHOOL SURVEY

Introduction

This major national survey was conducted online during the summer term. The survey investigates schools' perceptions of their local authority and other local services provided to schools. Schools were asked to rate performance against each question on a scale of

Excellent (4) Good (3) Adequate (2) Poor (1)

therefore the higher the average score the better. (NB This is a reversal of the 1-5 scale in previous years where lower was better)

Survey Questionnaire

This year's core survey contained 63 questions arranged in 6 sections as follows:

Be healthy (6)
Stay safe (10)
Enjoy and achieve (17)
Make a positive contribution (4)
Achieve economic wellbeing (4)
Strategic management (22)

Because of the change in the rating scale, direct comparisons with the 2008 survey are not possible.

Response rate

This year 24 out of 38 (63%) Bracknell Forest schools responded to the survey, slightly more than the previous year. The national response rate this year was 29%.

Summary Results

Of the 63 questions in the survey, Bracknell Forest was:

- between Good and Excellent on 12
- Good on 3
- between Adequate and Good on 47
- Adequate on 1 (*q5.4 see below*)
- Bracknell Forest was rated with an average of 2.5 or lower on only four questions in the survey
 - *1.4 Local services in meeting the mental health needs of children and young people* (although still higher than all councils' average and in top quartile)
 - *2.10 Multi-agency early intervention for children in need* (although still higher than all councils' average and in top quartile)
 - *5.1 provision for 14-19 education in meeting local needs*

- *5.4 provision of post-16 opportunities for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities)*

National Comparison

- Bracknell Forest achieved the highest rating in England for question 2.6 in the Stay Safe section - *Your council's support for combating bullying* – with an average of 3.38 (compared with an all councils average of 2.69)
- in highest (4th) quartile nationally for 47 out of 63 questions
- in 3rd quartile nationally for 11 out of 63 questions
- in 2nd quartile for 3 questions as follows:
 - *1.3 school meals service encouragement for children and young people to eat healthily* (BF average 2.77 all councils average 2.81)
 - *2.4 guidance on when to make a child protection referral to the relevant service* (BF average 2.67 all councils average 2.73)
 - *5.1 provision for 14-19 education in meeting local needs* (BF average 2.50 all councils average 2.60)
- (1st) quartile nationally for 2 questions as follows:
 - *2.2 training, advice and support on child protection provided by the LSCB for designated members of staff and governors* (BF average 2.63 all councils average 3.01)
 - *5.4 provision of post-16 opportunities for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities* (BF average 2.00 all councils average 2.36)

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Bracknell Forest

The School Survey

1. Summary analysis - all participating councils in England All schools

2009

Survey Question	Bracknell Forest			All participating councils in England						
	Bracknell Forest average	Standard deviation	Description of average (on the 4-point scale)	Min (lowest council average)	Max (highest council average)	All participating councils average	Standard deviation	First quartile (25th percentile)	Third quartile (75th percentile)	Quartile (which Bracknell Forest falls within, where 4 is best and 1 worst)
1. Be healthy										
1.1. Local services' support for children and young people to cease substance abuse (including smoking and alcohol)	2.80	0.77	Between Adequate and Good	2.22	3.10	2.68	0.68	2.54	2.88	3
1.2. Local services in providing support to keep children and young people healthy	3.21	0.59	Between Good and Excellent	2.59	3.42	2.94	0.69	2.85	3.11	4
1.3. The school meals service encouragement for children and young people to eat healthily	2.77	0.69	Between Adequate and Good	2.23	3.50	2.81	0.81	2.64	2.97	2
1.4. Local services in meeting the mental health needs of children and young people	2.30	0.76	Between Adequate and Good	1.19	3.06	2.05	0.84	1.89	2.26	4
1.5. Local services in meeting the needs of children and young people with disabilities and with long term health conditions	2.94	0.56	Between Adequate and Good	1.93	3.21	2.60	0.71	2.50	2.76	4
1.6. Local services' support for promoting sexual health and reducing teenage pregnancies	2.80	0.42	Between Adequate and Good	2.05	3.13	2.57	0.74	2.43	2.78	4

Annex B

2. Stay safe											
2.1.	Local services' safeguarding of children and young people and protecting them from harm and neglect	2.96	0.55	Between Adequate and Good	1.39	3.42	2.63	0.86	2.50	2.92	4
2.2.	The training, advice and support on child protection provided by the Local Safeguarding Children Board for designated members of staff and governors	2.63	0.92	Between Adequate and Good	2.00	3.69	3.01	0.77	2.77	3.26	1
2.3.	Communication between the Local Safeguarding Children Board and schools	2.71	0.62	Between Adequate and Good	1.50	3.38	2.58	0.84	2.39	2.85	3
2.4.	The guidance on when to make a child protection referral to the relevant service	2.67	0.70	Between Adequate and Good	1.78	3.75	2.73	0.79	2.64	2.91	2
2.5.	Local services' work to prevent children and young people becoming victims of crime	2.73	0.70	Between Adequate and Good	1.89	3.18	2.45	0.72	2.28	2.65	4
2.6.	Your council's support for combating bullying	3.38	0.58	Between Good and Excellent	1.98	3.38	2.69	0.73	2.51	2.83	4
2.7.	Local services' support for combating discrimination and racism	2.91	0.51	Between Adequate and Good	2.09	3.23	2.73	0.70	2.60	2.90	4
2.8.	Local services in ensuring children and young people do not go missing from the system	2.77	0.87	Between Adequate and Good	1.90	3.47	2.62	0.76	2.50	2.84	3
2.9.	Support from local services to help families in danger of harming or neglecting their own children	2.64	0.58	Between Adequate and Good	1.40	3.14	2.23	0.81	2.07	2.50	4
2.10	Multi-agency early intervention for children in need	2.46	0.66	Between Adequate and Good	1.53	3.00	2.18	0.83	2.03	2.46	4

3. Enjoy and achieve											
3.1.	Your council's support to develop self-management in your school	3.35	0.57	Between Good and Excellent	1.94	3.62	2.84	0.74	2.69	3.00	4
3.2.	Your council's challenge to your school to perform better	3.35	0.71	Between Good and Excellent	2.24	3.86	3.03	0.69	2.88	3.22	4
3.3.	Support from your council for developing personalised learning	2.92	0.58	Between Adequate and Good	1.79	3.38	2.56	0.74	2.39	2.72	4
3.4.	The provision for early years in meeting local needs	2.89	0.76	Between Adequate and Good	1.91	3.71	2.82	0.74	2.68	2.96	3
3.5.	The council's co-ordination of services to support the education of looked-after children	3.05	0.50	Between Good and Excellent	2.00	3.24	2.69	0.74	2.59	2.89	4
3.6.	The advice, support and training from your council for teachers with a designated responsibility for looked-after children	2.91	0.53	Between Adequate and Good	1.67	3.33	2.67	0.75	2.52	2.88	4
3.7.	The information you receive from your council about looked-after children in your school	2.83	0.58	Between Adequate and Good	1.73	3.17	2.48	0.78	2.35	2.68	4
3.8.	The accessibility of the social workers responsible for the looked-after children in your school	2.64	0.81	Between Adequate and Good	1.59	2.85	2.10	0.81	2.00	2.32	4
3.9.	Your council's support for meeting the needs of children and young people with English as an additional language	2.61	0.78	Between Adequate and Good	1.73	3.29	2.43	0.83	2.22	2.68	3

Annex B

3.10.	Your council's support for meeting the needs of children and young people from minority ethnic groups	2.57	0.84	Between Adequate and Good	1.80	3.38	2.49	0.78	2.29	2.73	3
3.11.	Your council's support for meeting the needs of gifted and talented children and young people	2.71	0.62	Between Adequate and Good	1.83	3.12	2.53	0.74	2.28	2.74	3
3.12.	The council's support for promoting sustainable development in schools	2.61	0.66	Between Adequate and Good	1.72	3.12	2.39	0.76	2.21	2.58	4
3.13.	Interventions with young children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities	2.88	0.54	Between Adequate and Good	1.87	3.29	2.55	0.78	2.36	2.74	4
3.14.	How statutory assessments are made for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities	2.88	0.74	Between Adequate and Good	1.63	3.25	2.35	0.80	2.24	2.61	4
3.15.	Local services' support for young carers to achieve positive outcomes	2.75	0.46	Between Adequate and Good	1.93	3.17	2.53	0.70	2.35	2.74	4
3.16.	Local services' provision of appropriate formal and informal play areas	2.80	0.77	Between Adequate and Good	1.71	3.07	2.35	0.76	2.20	2.54	4
3.17.	Local services' support for developing children's centres	2.95	0.80	Between Adequate and Good	1.93	3.45	2.64	0.78	2.45	2.82	4

4. Make a positive contribution											
4.1.	Local services' support for children and young people to contribute positively to their local community and to the environment	2.75	0.68	Between Adequate and Good	2.10	3.16	2.54	0.72	2.40	2.71	4
4.2.	The opportunities provided locally for children and young people to make their voices heard	2.88	0.68	Between Adequate and Good	1.91	3.42	2.57	0.79	2.41	2.75	4
4.3.	Local services' provision of activities to deflect children and young people from anti-social behaviour	2.52	0.81	Between Adequate and Good	1.50	2.93	2.24	0.75	2.10	2.43	4
4.4.	Local services' provision of appropriate family learning opportunities	2.96	0.75	Between Adequate and Good	1.83	3.16	2.52	0.75	2.38	2.72	4
5. Achieve economic well-being											
5.1.	The provision for 14-19 education in meeting local needs	2.50	0.58	Between Adequate and Good	1.75	4.00	2.60	0.79	2.33	2.90	2
5.2.	The information, advice and guidance (IAG) provided by local services on options post-16	3.00	0.00	Good	2.00	3.67	2.60	0.74	2.40	2.87	4
5.3.	The provision of opportunities post-16 for care leavers	3.00	1.00	Good	1.50	3.50	2.44	0.74	2.18	2.71	4
5.4.	The provision of post-16 opportunities for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities	2.00	0.00	Adequate	1.50	3.50	2.36	0.80	2.05	2.65	1

6. Strategic management

6.1.	The leadership of senior officers of your council	3.26	0.62	Between Good and Excellent	1.32	3.75	2.57	0.80	2.35	2.88	4
6.2.	The leadership of elected members of your council	3.10	0.62	Between Good and Excellent	1.50	3.27	2.32	0.73	2.14	2.53	4
6.3.	Your council's communication with your school	3.04	0.75	Between Good and Excellent	1.43	3.30	2.43	0.78	2.19	2.65	4
6.4.	Your council's school place planning	2.65	0.83	Between Adequate and Good	1.58	3.32	2.31	0.79	2.11	2.63	4
6.5.	Your council's co-ordination of the admissions process	2.83	0.87	Between Adequate and Good	1.38	3.50	2.50	0.84	2.32	2.76	4
6.6.	Your council's support to improve building management and development in your school	2.57	1.08	Between Adequate and Good	1.36	3.23	2.31	0.89	2.11	2.62	3
6.7.	Your council's financial information, including comparative data for schools	3.08	0.65	Between Good and Excellent	2.00	3.54	2.76	0.79	2.53	3.00	4
6.8.	Your council's support in enabling you to be an effective purchaser of traded services, whether from the council or from external providers	2.58	0.72	Between Adequate and Good	1.73	3.25	2.42	0.78	2.23	2.61	3
6.9.	Your council's challenge to improve resource and financial management in your school	3.04	0.75	Between Good and Excellent	1.90	3.37	2.64	0.76	2.45	2.83	4
6.10.	Your council's support for developing extended schools and other out of school activities for children and young people	3.29	0.81	Between Good and Excellent	1.91	3.33	2.66	0.80	2.45	2.91	4

Annex B

6.11.	Your council's support in developing the effectiveness of your governing body	3.08	0.83	Between Good and Excellent	1.94	3.46	2.70	0.77	2.56	2.95	4
6.12.	Your council's behaviour support programmes	2.54	0.93	Between Adequate and Good	1.63	3.38	2.42	0.80	2.21	2.67	3
6.13.	Your council's support for promoting pupil attendance	2.75	0.74	Between Adequate and Good	1.71	3.55	2.60	0.82	2.44	2.88	3
6.14.	Your council's management of the procedures for re-admission of excluded pupils	2.77	0.83	Between Adequate and Good	1.38	3.50	2.41	0.79	2.22	2.71	4
6.15.	Your council's provision for pupils out of mainstream schools, including pupils who have been excluded	2.63	0.92	Between Adequate and Good	1.40	3.50	2.25	0.85	2.05	2.57	4
6.16.	Your council's specialist learning support	3.00	0.62	Good	1.71	3.40	2.55	0.76	2.36	2.78	4
6.17.	Your council's educational psychology support	2.83	0.72	Between Adequate and Good	1.19	3.44	2.41	0.88	2.23	2.68	4
6.18.	The extent to which schools influence policies /plans/ procedures of the Children's Trust/Partnership	2.74	0.65	Between Adequate and Good	1.25	3.21	2.27	0.75	2.10	2.50	4
6.19.	The delivery of the five Every Child Matters outcomes by the Children's Trust/Partnership	2.82	0.50	Between Adequate and Good	1.75	3.26	2.56	0.68	2.40	2.81	4
6.20.	Local services in helping you to deliver your statutory responsibility for promoting the wellbeing of children and young people	2.88	0.61	Between Adequate and Good	2.00	3.30	2.53	0.70	2.38	2.77	4
6.21.	The schools' forum	2.96	0.56	Between Adequate and Good	2.00	3.29	2.62	0.70	2.47	2.83	4
6.22.	The Children's Trust/Partnership in combating the impact of child poverty	2.77	0.73	Between Adequate and Good	1.38	3.20	2.30	0.70	2.13	2.53	4

Services to Schools Survey 2009**5 = high, 1 = low****Average score**

Human Resources	4.61
Governor Services	4.41
Financial Services	4.39
Health & Safety	4.33
ICT - Admin Networks & SIMS support	4.22
Online Recruitment	4.20
Bursar Cover Service	4.14
Insurance & Risk Management Services	3.94
Payroll Services	3.94
TASS	3.81
Cash Management & Banking Services	3.80
ICT - Whiteboard & Teachers' Laptops	3.75
Landscape Services	3.75
Legal Services	3.75
Museum Service	3.73
Copyright and Licensing	3.71
Education Library Service	3.67
ICT - Technical Support for Curriculum	3.67
School Building Cleaning	3.67
Tree Inspection	3.64
Refuse and Recycling Collection	3.63
Service Contracts	3.60
Inspection of Equipment	3.56
Asset Management Planning	3.50
School Meals Catering	3.46
Counselling Service	3.33
Reactive Building Maintenance	3.31
Valuation Service	3.25

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TO: SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE 25 FEBRUARY 2010

**2010-11 STANDARDS FUND AND OTHER ALLOCATIONS TO
SCHOOLS FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
(Acting Director of Children, Families and Learning)**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information to members of the Forum in respect of allocations made to schools and those planned to be made from the Standards Fund and other budgets that support school improvement. Final decisions on discretionary areas will be taken by the Executive Member for Education in May, taking into account comments from the Schools Forum.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Forum:

- 2.1 **NOTES the basis of grant allocations to schools as set out in Part (i) of Appendix A.**
- 2.2 **NOTES the grants available to the LA to support schools as set out in Part (ii) of Appendix A.**
- 2.3 **NOTES that as previously agreed, the Leadership Incentive Grant element of the School Development Grant relating to funding for named schools will be set at 33% of the 2008-09 level in 2010-11 (paragraph 5.13).**
- 2.4 **SUPPORTS the proposal that 50% of any unallocated School Development Grant be distributed to schools through an equal percentage increase to 2009-10 levels of per pupil funding and the remaining 50% by an equal amount for each pupil eligible for a free school meal (paragraph 5.15).**
- 2.5 **NOTES that as previously agreed, the School Lunch Grant will be allocated to schools increasing meals take up, a fixed allocation to each school and an amount per meal served (paragraph 5.16).**
- 2.6 **NOTES the Support to School Improvement budget and budget to support schools in financial difficulty (paragraphs 5.19 and 5.20).**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Statutory regulations require that the School Forum be consulted on relevant budget proposals and views of the Schools Forum are now being sought so that they can be considered by the Executive Member for Education before final budget decisions are taken.
- 3.2 The Forum needs to be aware of the basis on which Standards Fund and other financial support for School Improvement are allocated.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Not applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Standards Fund

General

- 5.1 Each year grants are made to schools and the Local Authority (LA) from the Standards Fund, paid under Sections 14 – 18 of the Education Act 2002. The DCSF provides guidance to the LA on how each grant within the Standards Fund is to be allocated to schools and where there is any local discretion in the allocation formula to be used.,
- 5.2 Allocations are made from a number of grants and these are listed at Appendix A. Part (i) lists the grants to be devolved to schools, with Part (ii) listing grants managed by the LA. In most cases, grants have to be allocated to schools on a basis set by the DCSF. However, there are a small number of grants where local discretion can be applied, and the Schools Forum is recommended to agree the method proposed. Initial allocations of grant are made to schools in March 2010 with further allocations in year once outstanding allocations are announced by the DCSF and appropriate data has been collected.
- 5.3 Appendix B summarises the funding available from each confirmed grant.

Main grants devolved to schools

- 5.4 There are two main Grants paid to all Schools through the Standards Fund; the School Standards Grant, which comprises a core element and a second allocation to support personalised learning, and the School Development Grant.

The School Standards Grant (SSG) – BFBC total £2.349m (estimate)

- 5.5 The SSG was introduced as a means of directly funding schools rather than using the LA. This grant is unusual in that there are no spending restrictions outside of the meeting the general educational benefit of pupils. In addition, the grant can be spent on community facilities in support of extended services . Neither are there any time limits on when the funding must be spent by or specific reporting requirements. Therefore, this funding is made available to schools with their delegated school budget.
- 5.6 The method used to allocate core SSG to individual schools is prescribed by the DCSF. The standard calculation is a fixed amount of £12,000 per primary or secondary school, with a further £120 for each primary aged pupil and £130 for each secondary aged pupil. Special schools receive a fixed amount of £29,000 with a further £120 per pupil, irrespective of age. However, if this delivers an allocation that is lower than the 2009-10 per pupil allocation plus 2.1%, then this second calculation is used.

School Standards Grant – Personalisation (SSGP) – BFBC total £0.550m (estimate)

- 5.7 From April 2006 a second strand was introduced to the SSG to support key ministerial priorities around personalised learning and extended services. Similar to the core SSG, this funding has no restrictions on what it can be spent on, so as well as supporting the

general benefit of the school, this funding can also be used to support community rather than just pupil focused extended services. Again there are no time limits on when the funding must be spent by or specific reporting requirements relating to the general benefit of the school or pupil focused extended services. Whilst this funding is initially made available to schools with their delegated school budget, it can be vired to community focused extended services, in which case in accordance with the statutory Consistent Financial Reporting framework (CFR), this must be accounted for separately.

- 5.8 The national method used to allocate SSGP is that 15% of overall funds are allocated on the basis of pupil numbers, 35% on the basis of pupil eligibility to free school meals and the remaining 50% by reference to low attainers in reading, writing and mathematics. Units of resource for primary schools are £5 per pupil, £72 per pupil eligible to a free school meal and £119 for each low attaining pupil. For secondary schools, the units of resource are £14, £225 and £196 respectively. Again a different calculation is made for special schools, with payments based on a fixed amount of £5,321 plus £53 for each pupil on roll in excess of 100. The allocations are estimated at this point as for low prior attainment data schools have to verify the numbers of pupils not achieving the required level. The Authority has until the end of July 2010 to confirm allocations with schools.

The School Development Grant (SDG) – BFBC total £2.530m (estimate)

- 5.9 The SDG was introduced in April 2005 as a replacement for a large number of discrete grants that were previously paid through the Standards Fund. The purpose of this change was to simplify the way that schools were funded for standards related grants and to make funding more flexible as reporting requirements and spending restrictions were relaxed. Schools and the LA are free to spend this grant on any purpose to support improvements in teaching and learning in schools, leading to higher standards of attainment for every learner.
- 5.10 This grant must be spent within 17 months of the start of each financial year. Therefore, 2010-11 allocations must be fully spent by the end of August 2011. It must be spent on school improvement and development. Any underspend must be returned to the DCSF. This expenditure deadline does not apply to School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) or where a grant is now part of the Area Based Grant, where there is no expenditure deadline.
- 5.11 The main element of the SDG is allocated to all schools in 2010-11 on a per pupil basis where the per pupil amount must be at least as much as the 2009-10 per pupil allocation. To continue the DCSF deprivation funding focus, each school must also receive at least as much deprivation funding as was received last year. In both instances, there is no requirement to apply an increase in funding. This main element of the SDG is estimated at £1.620m.
- 5.12 There are two other elements to the SDG, both of which relate to secondary schools only. Schools that achieve specialist status receive additional revenue funding to develop their specialism(s). Funding levels are set by the DCSF and is generally £129 per pupil. High Performing Specialist Schools receive further funding allocations based on their number on roll and the second specialism option taken. This element of SDG funding is estimated at £0.707m.
- 5.13 There is also a separate Leadership Incentive Grant (LIG) element which has previously been payable at set amounts to schools specified by the DCSF which had high levels of pupil eligibility to free school meals or relatively low test scores. Two schools in Bracknell Forest initially qualified for LIG funding to the value of £0.203m, but from April 2008, there has not been a requirement to allocate the funding at the same level to the

schools that currently receive it. The Forum has previously agreed that those schools in receipt of this grant in 2007-08 would continue to do so at 67% of the 2008-09 grant element in 2009-10. This will reduce to 33% in 2010-11 and be completely removed in 2011-12.

- 5.14 The remainder of this grant (£0.136m in 2010-11) can be allocated at the discretion of the Schools Forum and it was agreed last year that this should be allocated to all schools on the same basis as other remaining SDG funds as detailed in paragraph 5.15 below.
- 5.15 If any funds remain from the amount of grant provided by government after making the allocations set out above, then it is for the LA in consultation with the Schools Forum to decide the most appropriate way to allocate the balance to schools. The Schools Forum is asked to confirm its agreement to the existing allocation so that when a balance exists it is allocated to schools half as an equal percentage increase to each individual schools' 2010-11 initial per pupil funding amount and half based on an equal amount for each pupil eligible for a free school meal. In this way all schools receive a moderate increase in per pupil funding, with additional allocations based on relative deprivation, which is consistent with the agreed budget setting objectives.

Grant 1.2: School Lunch Grant – BFBC total £0.155m

- 5.16 This is a ring-fenced grant aimed at ensuring that school lunch take-up is increased. The LA is required to discuss the distribution of funding with the Schools Forum. It has previously been agreed with the Forum that in order to provide incentives to schools to achieve increases in take up, a share of this funding will be allocated to schools that have achieved an increase in the proportion of pupils on roll buying a meal between January 2009 and January 2010. 25% of available funding will be allocated on a fixed amount per meal served where pupil paid meal take up has increased by more than 2.5%. Of the balance, 15% will be allocated at a fixed amount per school, thereby helping smaller schools that don't benefit from economies of scale with the remaining 60% allocated on a fixed amount per meal served.

Other Grants for School Improvement

- 5.17 Other available grants are devolved to schools or retained by the LA on the basis of criteria set by the DCSF. More information on these funding streams is set out in Annex A.

Other funding available to support School Improvement.

LA Budget

- 5.18 Within the budget financed by the Council (i.e. outside the Schools Budget which is funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant), funding has been made available to support a range of school improvement activities agreed each year with schools through their representatives on the School Improvement Group (SIG). The majority of the budget supports schools based on their category of need as defined by the Council's Policy for School Challenge, Support and Intervention. Smaller amounts are used to support the provision to schools of performance data and analyses.
- 5.19 For 2010-11 the provisional budget is £0.065m. The funds are proposed to be allocated on the following basis:
- £0.040m - devolved to schools based on SCSi categories (Autumn 2010 categories). 50% of funding to be allocated based on number on roll, and 50%

- based on the category. The ratio of funding for categories 3, 4 and 5 to remain unchanged at 1:3:15.
- £0.010m - to be allocated to schools following inspection and requiring an in-year change of category in the 3-5 range. Should this not be required, the funds would be distributed to schools in categories 3-5 in accordance with the above formula.
- £0.015m – Contribution to LA costs to provide additional support from Advisers for schools in categories 3-5 and other costs including purchase of test and examination analysis software (EPAS and KEYPAS, subscription to Fischer Family Trust and associated administrative costs).

Support to schools in financial difficulty

- 5.20 The Forum has previously agreed that £0.200m be set aside in the Schools Budget to support schools in financial difficulty. Provided relevant criteria are met, additional funding can be made available to schools following budget review with the LA. If required, a separate report on any proposed use of this budget will be presented to the Forum at a later date after schools have set their 2010-11 budgets. As previously reported, there is an expectation that funds will need to be allocated to Easthampstead Park, a National Challenge school. A separate report on proposals around use of this budget will be presented to the Forum for consideration in the summer term.

Capital Grant - Harnessing Technology Grant

- 5.21 Although no longer part of the Standards Fund the Harnessing Technology Grant is a capital grant available to support ICT in schools. The LA retains 25% of this grant and, subject to the approval of the Schools Forum may retain more for the benefit of all schools. The Schools Forum have agreed that the LA may retain sufficient of the grant in 2010-11 to support the capital costs associated with the provision of enhanced broadband internet services to all schools.

Area Based Grants

- 5.22 A number of school improvement grants previously paid to LAs through the Standards Fund are now made available through the Area Based Grant and are not subject to specific spending restrictions. These grants continue to be used to support school improvement activities, more information of which is set out in the attached annexes.

Conclusion

- 5.23 The Schools Forum is asked to consider comments on the proposals in this paper so they can be taken into account when decisions are taken by the Executive Member for Education.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the body of the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The allocation of funds to schools as set out in this report can be funded from within the budget and grant funding available for the Standards Fund and other relevant school improvement budgets.

Impact assessment

- 6.3 There are no access implications.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 Failure to allocate grant in line with the requirements as set out in the relevant circular could result in loss of income for schools.

Other officers

- 6.5 None

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Members of the School Improvement Group

Representations Received

- 7.2 None.

Background Papers

Information on the Standards Fund for 2010 – 2011 DCSF

Contact for further information

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Doc. Ref

Doc. Ref NewAlluse\Executive\Schools Forum\ 250210 \ Standards Fund.doc

STANDARD FUND 2010– 2011 PROVISIONAL ALLOCATIONS

(i) GRANTS MAINLY DEVOLVED TO SCHOOLS

Grant	Allocation	Method of allocation / eligible expenditure
Grant 1.1 School Development Grant – Core allocation	£1,620,000 (estimate) Based on revised pupil numbers	Schools are able to spend their devolved SDG funding on any purpose to support the improvement of teaching and learning, providing that they deliver the outcomes and outputs of the grants for which they have an allocation. The aim is to ensure that schools have the flexibility to use the money to meet their own priorities. After allocating funds to schools under DCSF instructions the remaining balance is proposed to be allocated to schools, 50% as a percentage increase and 50% based on free school meals as set out in paragraph 5.15.
School Development Grant – Leadership Incentive Grant	£202,682	Transitional arrangements are in place to dampen the effect of the ending of DCSF support to this grant which was available to schools with the highest relative deprivation, or relatively low test results. The Leadership Incentive Grant will be paid in 2010-11 at 33% of the 2008-09 level with the balance being re-allocated to schools.
School Development Grant – Specialist schools	£707,000 (estimate) on latest pupil numbers	Allocated to Garth Hill College, Sandhurst School, Easthampstead Park School, Edgbarrow School and Ranelagh School as DCSF approved specialist schools. This grant will be paid to schools on the basis of £129 for each of the first 1,000 pupils, with a further £129 payable for each pupil above the 1,200 NOR threshold. NOR based on January 2010 PLASC data. Ranelagh has been designated as a High Performing Specialist School and receives an additional £60,000 to support a second specialism.
School Standards Grant	£2,349,000 (estimate) based on latest pupil numbers	Schools are able to spend this funding not only on the general purposes of the school, but also in support of extended services, particularly those with a Community, rather than pupil focus. The DCSF also highlight that schools should consider using this grant to support personalised learning. There is no time limit set on when the funds need to be spent by.
School Standards Grant (Personalisation)	£550,000 (estimate) based on latest pupil numbers)	Schools are able to spend this funding not only on the general purposes of the school, but also in support of extended services, particularly those with a Community, rather than pupil focus. The DCSF also highlight that schools should consider using this grant to support personalised learning. There is no time limit set on when the funds need to be spent by. Allocations to schools are set by the DCSF and take account of number on roll, pupil eligibility to free school meals, and pupil attainment in mathematics, reading and writing.

Grant	Allocation	Method of allocation / eligible expenditure
Grant 1.2 School lunch grant (Ring fenced)	£155,483	In order to provide incentives to schools to achieve increases in take up a share of this funding is allocated to schools that have achieved an increase in the proportion of pupils on roll buying a meal between January 2009 and January 2010. 25% of available funding will be allocated on a fixed amount per meal served where pupil paid meal take up has increased by more than 2.5%. Of the balance, 15% will be allocated at a fixed amount per school, thereby helping smaller schools that don't benefit from economies of scale with the remaining 60% allocated on a fixed amount per meal served.
Grant 1.5 Making Good Progress (1-2-1 Tuition) Ring fenced grant at LA level i. Total funding for school sessions ii. Total funding for school participation iii. LA central costs	i. £433,113 ii. £24,420 iii. £34,867	This grant provides 10 hours of one-to-one tuition in English and mathematics for eligible pupils in Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 and, in a National Challenge school, Key Stage 4. Elements i and ii will be fully devolved to schools. Element iii will be used by the LA to support the training of tutors, quality assurance, reporting on progress and liaison with headteachers and HR.
Grant 1.7 Targeted support for the primary strategy i. Support for all schools ii. Support for targeted schools iii Assessment for Learning iv. CLLD consultant v. EYFS vi. Cross phase SEAL programme vii. Primary Languages viii. Leading Teachers	i. £67,200 ii. £78,775 iii. £58,337 iv. £65,000 v. 9,120 vi. £12,900 vii. £112,365 viii. £7,000	The grants will be devolved to schools in line with guidance published by the DCSF. Funding will be targeted at those schools that have the highest number of pupils who have fallen behind in English and mathematics. Funding will be focussed on improving literacy, numeracy assessment practice and on building schools' capacity to sustain improvement through developing local capacity for school improvement, including the Local Consultants for Improvement scheme. In line with DCSF requirements, the majority of the allocation under section (vi). will be used to support Secondary SEAL. Under item (iv) £50, 000 has been allocated to support the appointment of a CLLD consultant and the remaining £15,000 will be devolved to schools and settings to enable teachers and practitioners to access training, undertake peer support and carry out data collection requirements. Funding for MFL will be devolved to schools in line with the phased planned development of modern foreign language teaching in primary schools. Two thirds of this element of the budget will be devolved to schools. Further allocations will be made for the Every Child a Reader and Every Child Counts programmes when grant details are confirmed by the DCSF.

Grant	Allocation	Method of allocation / eligible expenditure
Grant 1.8 Targeted support for the Secondary Strategy i. Support to all schools ii. Assessment for Learning iii. Support for targeted schools	i. £19,200 ii. £38,260 iii. £132,543	<p>The grants will be devolved to schools in line with guidance published by the DCSF. All schools will receive funding from elements (i) and (ii). Element (iii) gives priority to funding schools with the greatest number of pupils who have not reached national expectations in the core subjects including those who have fallen behind in English and mathematics or where there are underperforming groups of learners.</p> <p>Part of element (ii) will be devolved to lead schools/departments to support a local network established to increase quality and consistency of teaching, learning and assessment.</p>
Grant 1.10 Early Years	£735,431 (provisional allocation)	This grant will be used to enable 25 per cent of the most disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds to access 15 hours of free nursery education over 38 weeks a year. Further guidance is awaited from the DCSF and funding will be allocated on the basis of the existing formula.

(ii) GRANTS MAINLY MANAGED BY THE LA

Grant	Allocation	Method of allocation / eligible expenditure
Grant 1.3 Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant	£77,141	This grant is intended to narrow achievement gaps for those minority ethnic groups who are underachieving and to meet particular needs of pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL). EMAG is a ring-fenced grant which must be spent on this purpose. The LA will retain this grant and continue to provide support to pupils who have been referred by schools in accordance with the agreed criteria.
Grant 1.14 KS4 Foundation Learning Grant	£32,000	This is a new grant to support the Foundation Learning provision for 14-19 year olds from September 2010. Details will be discussed with the 14-19 Partnership.
Grant 1.6 Extended schools Sustainability	£334,050	The Extended Services 'Sustainability' Grant 1.6 is intended to be devolved for the appointment of Family Support Advisers (FSA), co-ordinators in school clusters and the administration of funding for economically disadvantaged pupils. There is scope for schools currently without an FSA to appoint to a post, and moves to school-based co-ordination will be introduced as school clusters look to become sustainable.
Grant 1.6a Extended schools Subsidy Ring fenced grant at LA level	£209,850	Grant 1.6a is intended to provide support for pupils from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and looked after children, to access a wide and attractive range of out of school activities, so boosting their fulfilment and self-esteem and raising their attainment. Following a pilot in 2009/10, in 2010/11 the support is available for pupils throughout the Borough.
Grant 1.11 Music Services	£183,861	This grant is aimed at increasing participation and raising standards of pupil achievement in music by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding opportunities for Key Stage 2 pupils to learn a musical instrument and/ or to receive specialist vocal tuition (£47,101) • maintaining and extending the broadest possible access to music education provision. This grant is used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the activities of Berkshire Maestros including the contract to provide group instrumental tuition within schools, membership of instrumental ensembles at music centres, tuition for brass and string projects targeted at schools with a low take up of instrumental tuition and support for awards and scholarships • support local initiatives including the Primary music concert and carol concert • salary and on-costs.
Grant 1.12 Playing for success	£105,000	The grant is used to fund the Playing for Success programme at the John Nike Centre. The project is jointly sponsored by Wokingham and Bracknell Forest LAs.

Grants now in the Area Based Grant		
Priority	Budget	Method of allocation / eligible expenditure
Primary National Strategy	£70,414	These funds will be used to cover part of the costs of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant salaries and on-costs • Line management of consultants • Primary Strategy team • Administration costs • Training and venue costs • Resources to support the strategy.
Secondary National Strategy	£98,540	These funds will be used to fund part costs of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant salaries and on-costs • Line management of consultants • Secondary Strategy team • Administration costs • Training and venue costs • Resources to support the strategy
Behaviour and Attendance	£68,300	
School Improvement Partners	£41,000	These funds are a contribution towards the costs associated with providing School Improvement Partners for each school.
Education Health Partnerships	£32,134	Expenditure will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • project co-ordinator costs • resource and CPD costs
Extended schools 'Start-up'	£213,580	The intention of this funding is to support LA strategy, schools, children and LA work. The funding decreases significantly in 2010/11. It is proposed that this allocation will be spent in a similar way to previous years, funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgets devolved to areas for local initiatives. • Borough-wide projects for local implementation • Area co-ordination • Central co-ordination • Childcare development and provision (funded in previous years through Surestart). Exact costs will be allocated in line with the LA project plan.
School travel advisers	£15,000	These funds are used to part fund the post of Travel Plan Coordinator based in the Environment and Leisure Department. The Coordinator assists individual schools in developing, implementing and monitoring School Travel Plans which encourage more children to travel to school by sustainable modes and, once approved, release small amounts of devolved capital funds..
Choice Advisers	£17,951	The LA will use these funds to support parents in selecting a school for their child. The support will be targeted at those parents most likely to need extra help with the school admissions process.
School Intervention Grant	£26,000	The purpose of these funds is to foster new and constructive support arrangements between schools or other partners.

Priority	Budget	Method of allocation / eligible expenditure
Flexible 14-19	£28,878	These funds will be used by the LA to support local 14-19 priorities. This may include the costs of partnership management and co-ordination, the development of common timetables, the development and implementation of a local area prospectus in line with DfES guidance, and other administrative costs associated with collaborative delivery.
Sustainable travel to school	£7,924	These funds will be used by the LA to help deliver its duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote sustainable travel and transport to and from school. This can include items such as expenditure on physical highway improvements, curriculum resources and incentive schemes
Extended rights to free travel	£45,767	This grant will be used to cover the costs of extending transport rights for low income groups.
School Development Grant	£207,574	Used to support borough wide school improvement initiatives including SEN

Grant	Grant name	2009-10	2010-11		Devolved to Schools	LA Managed
		Final Allocation	Confirmed Allocation	Provisional Allocation		
SSG	School Standards Grant – Core	£2,361,669		£2,349,000	£2,349,000	
SSGP	School Standards Grant - Personalisation	£534,636		£550,000	£550,000	
1.1	School Development Grant - core	£1,558,472		£1,620,000	£1,620,000	
1.1	School Development Grant - Specialist Schools	£652,110		£707,000	£707,000	
1.1	School Development Grant - Leadership Incentive Grant	£202,682		£202,682	£202,682	
1.2	Targeted School Meals Grant	£152,155	£155,483		£155,483	
1.3	Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant	£72,526	£77,141			£77,141
1.5	Making Good Progress (1-2-1 Tuition)	£257,567	£492,400		£457,533	£34,867
1.6	Extended Schools - Sustainability	£237,096	£334,050		TBD	TBD
1.6a	Extended Schools - Subsidy	£38,730	£209,850		TBD	TBD
1.7	Primary Strategy School Targeted Support	£469,464	£410,697		£322,242	£88,455
1.8	Secondary Strategy School Targeted Support	£189,142	£190,003		£190,003	
1.10	Early Years	£179,412		£735,431	£735,431	
1.11	Music Services – LA	£184,260	£183,861			£183,861
1.12	Playing for Success	£105,000	£105,000			£105,000
1.14	KS4 Foundation Learning	£0	£32,000		TBD	TBD
ABG	Primary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination	£70,409	£70,414			£70,414
ABG	Secondary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination	£98,479	£98,540			£98,540
ABG	Secondary Strategy: Behaviour and Attendance	£68,300	£68,300			£68,300
ABG	School Improvement Partners	£41,000	£41,000			£41,000
ABG	Education Health Partnerships	£38,106	£32,134			£32,134
ABG	Extended Schools – Start Up	£519,353	£213,580			£213,580
ABG	School Travel Advisers	£15,000	£15,000			£15,000
ABG	Choice Advisers	£17,951	£17,951			£17,951
ABG	School Intervention Grant	£26,000	£26,000			£26,000
ABG	Flexible 14 to 19	£28,428	£28,878			£28,878
ABG	Sustainable travel to school	£7,924	£7,924			£7,924
ABG	Extended rights to Free travel	£30,241	£45,767			£45,767
ABG	School Development Grant	£207,574	£207,574			£207,574
CAPITAL	Harnessing Technology Grant	£283,987	£288,042		TBD	TBD
	TOTAL ALL GRANTS	£8,647,673	£3,351,589	£6,164,113		
			£9,515,702			

TO: SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE 25 FEBRUARY 2010

LOCAL AUTHORITY PROPOSALS FOR THE 2010-11 SCHOOLS BUDGET **(Acting Director of Children, Young People and Learning)**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members of the Schools Forum on the Schools Budget for 2010-11 and to seek views on:
- i. Final budget proposals from the Local Authority (LA), and
 - ii. Whether requests from the LA to exercise its statutory decision making powers are agreed.
- 1.2 Comments are being sought now on these updated proposals as this is the last opportunity to make changes before the Executive Member for Education agrees the final budget in March.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Schools Forum **RECOMMENDS** to the Executive Member for Education that the 2010-11 Schools Budget includes:
1. the unavoidable budget pressures as set out in the shaded column of Annex B calculated at £2.051m;
 2. the economies and new budget developments as set out in the shaded column of Annex C calculated at £0.980m, which includes the new proposal to allocate £0.020m to schools in respect of reactive maintenance and the remaining £0.040m balance of unallocated funds to schools, 85% based on pupil numbers and 15% via a fixed lump sum amount (paragraph 5.23);
 3. funding secondary schools for deprivation through weighted pupil eligibility to free school meals reverts to using the census data available at the January prior to the commencement of the relevant financial year (paragraph 5.15);
 4. that the fee payable to Early Years providers of the free entitlement to education and childcare is increased by 3.6% at April 2010, equivalent to the average increase in per pupil funding for statutory aged pupils in maintained schools (paragraph 5.21);
- 2.2 That the Schools Forum **AGREES** the following decisions that it is solely responsible for:
1. that the school specific contingency for 2010-11 be set at £0.308m and that a new specific contingency of £0.145m be set aside for providers of early years education and childcare (paragraph 5.25 (1), Table 4);
 2. That as a result of these budget proposals, that the Central Expenditure Limit be exceeded by £0.375m (paragraph 5.25 (2));

3. That the Minimum Funding Guarantee payment due to Brakenhale Secondary School be fully removed by the end of the 2012-13 financial year with the resultant savings redistributed within the Schools Budget (paragraph 5.25 (3));
4. That £0.036m be added to the combined services budget to support Education Health Partnerships and families subject to domestic abuse (paragraph 5.25 (4)).

2.3 That the Schools Forum NOTES the resultant budget for each service as set out in Annex D.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Regulations require the Schools Forum to be consulted on relevant budget proposals, and when requested, to consider whether any of the statutory budget decision making powers need to be exercised.
- 3.2 The views of the Schools Forum are now being sought so that they can be considered before final decisions on the Schools Budget are taken by the Executive Member in March.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 These have been previously considered during the budget consultation stage.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 5.1 At its meeting on 28 January 2010, a report was presented to the Forum which set out preliminary proposals from the LA in respect of the Schools Budget for 2010-11. This included confirmation that to help schools with their preliminary financial planning, indicative budgets had been distributed in December, which as previously agreed, had been based on decisions of the Acting Director.
- 5.2 The previous report outlined the objectives used to develop the budget (see Annex A), based on information available at that time, and presented a set of affordable budget proposals which would allow for a steady and constant increase in budgets to all schools and would fully fund unavoidable cost pressures as well as all of the newly identified budget developments, with £0.175m 'headroom' remaining that was also allocated to schools.
- 5.3 At the same time, the proposals reflected the government's key objectives of targeting appropriate levels of funding to schools with the greatest levels of deprivation and developing a number of combined education and social care initiatives that support the Every Child Matters Agenda.
- 5.4 Members of the Forum agreed that these initial proposals dealt with all the key issues facing the Schools Budget and that they should form the basis of final budget proposals to be presented to this meeting. It was also recognised that the initial budget proposals were based on a mix of January 2009 and October 2009 census data that would be

updated in January 2010, and therefore all reported amounts would be subject to change.

- 5.5 As there is a statutory requirement to have published the budget by the end of March, which also requires ratification by the Executive Member for Education, this report represents the final opportunity for the Forum to make comment on LA proposals for the 2010-11 budget.

Final budget proposals for 2010-11

Estimated level of Dedicated Schools Grant funding

- 5.6 Members of the Forum will be aware that the main source of income to the Schools Budget is the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and that the Council's DSG allocation is determined by multiplying the guaranteed amount of per pupil funding by the actual number of pupils on roll each January. This headcount includes pupils at maintained schools, 3 and 4 year olds in private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector settings and pupils receiving education out of school or out of borough in PVI special schools.
- 5.7 Provisional data from the actual January 2010 census has now been analysed together with updated estimates for other pupil numbers, the effect of which is that DSG income and year end balances are now forecast to be £0.136m more than previously expected.
- 5.8 Whilst there is expected to be a high degree of accuracy relating to the pupil numbers forecast in maintained schools, which have increased by 5 from the previous estimate, and College Hall Pupil Referral Unit, that have increased by 13, the numbers available for other settings are not so robust. In particular, the estimated number of pupils in PVI early years settings are still based on January 2009 numbers. This is due to unexpected delays in receiving updated information from providers through the national postal system. Taking this into account, at this stage the budget for DSG income and payments to PVI early years providers are based on last year's information as this approach should minimise the impact from any changes that will inevitably arise when the January 2010 data is received.
- 5.9 The remaining net increase of 8 pupils now anticipated to be funded through the DSG relates to an increase in the number of pupils in PVI special schools and for the first time, including traveller education pupils not registered on the roll of a school.
- 5.10 As set out above, there remains the possibility that pupil numbers will change following data checking by schools and the DCSF, especially in respect of data from non-maintained schools and early years providers in the PVI sector. Confirmed numbers will not be released by the DCSF until June, which will be after the point when budget decisions have to be taken. Therefore, the contingency of £0.240m included in the previous budget report is proposed to remain to cover a possible over estimate of DSG income or to meet unforeseen increases in costs on centrally managed budgets. Should the final DSG income be significantly different from that anticipated when the Executive Member makes final budget decisions in March, the Forum will be informed of any adjustments to the budget that are made.
- 5.11 Table 1 below sets out a summary of estimated Schools Budget income received by the Council and identifies the net change from the forecast made to the Forum in January.

Table 1: Breakdown of estimated DSG and balances for 2010-11

Ref	Item	2010-11
1	Pupil numbers in maintained schools	14,250
2	Pupils other than in maintained schools	721
3	Total estimated pupil numbers	14,971
4	Annual change	0.8%
5	Guaranteed per pupil DSG funding	£4,367.28
6	Annual change in per pupil DSG funding	4.6%
7	Total Estimated DSG Income	£65.328 m
8	Contingency	-£0.240 m
9	Estimated DSG for allocation to Schools Budget	£65.142 m
10	Total budget from previous year	£62.111 m
11	Estimated Change in DSG	£3.031 m
12	Annual change	4.9%
13	Estimated DSG and balances reported in January	£2.895 m
14	Annual change compared to January	+£0.136 m

Note, the impact arising from the estimated balance from 2009-10 is no longer shown in the analysis of income, and is instead included below in paragraph 5.12 as a budget development

Changes from those proposed in January

- 5.12 This section sets out the changes in funding needed for pressures and developments from the amounts estimated in the January budget report. Therefore, the figures quoted represent the adjustment now proposed, and not the total budget requirement.
- 5.13 The Council requires the Schools Budget to be balanced and not planning to carry forward an over spend at the end of each three year spending period. As 2010-11 is the final year of the current plan, it will need to cover all anticipated costs in the year, plus fund any brought forward deficit. The balance currently estimated at the end of 2009-10 is a deficit of £0.060m, an increase from the £0.017m estimate made last month, with the cost increases mainly arising from special educational needs (SEN) expenditure and an increase in the number of teachers on maternity leave as these absence costs are funded through a budget managed by the LA. A budget provision therefore needs to be set aside to repay this.
- 5.14 The majority of budget allocations to schools for pupil led funding must be based on actual head count data collected from schools each January. At the time of writing this

report, it has only been possible to complete provisional calculations of the effect of the school census on individual school budget allocations as data checking and calculations are still in progress. Based on current data, pupil budget allocations to mainstream schools, excluding allocations to fund the free entitlement to early years education and childcare have reduced next year by £0.127 million. For Kennel Lane Special School, there is a £0.001m increase in funding. It can be seen that an unexpected outcome has occurred from the census update in that the funding allocation to schools has reduced when the DSG pupil numbers have increased slightly. This is due to a number of 4 year olds previously expected to be receiving part time education for DSG purposes will in fact receive full time education.

- 5.15 In respect of changes in funding allocations to providers of early years education and childcare, the Forum will recall that an application has been made to the DCSF to implement the new Funding Formula from April 2010, which is one year earlier than the statutory deadline. At The implementation date has now been confirmed as April 2010. This means that original budgets for providers will need to be set on the actual hours participation in the 2009-10 financial year. As January 2010 data has yet to be received and verified, January 2009 hours will need to be used at this time of the budget setting process. Based on these assumptions, the initial budget requirement has been estimated at £3.396m, which is a reduction of £0.018m compared to the previous estimate.
- 5.16 The school census also provides updated numbers of pupils with English as an Additional Language, free school meals (FSM) eligibility and other core data that is used to distribute funds to schools. Overall, excluding deprivation funding allocated to schools based on the proportion of pupils eligible to an FSM, there has been an increase in the funding allocated through non-pupil related factors of £0.038 million. This mainly relates to £0.038m more funding than anticipated to cover the cost of providing a free school meal for pupils as overall numbers have increased by 15% from last year. Further details have also been received in respect of amendments to rating revaluations at schools which are estimated to increase costs by £0.016m. Finally, there are a number of other data changes that result in a cost pressure of £0.012m, which includes a new pressure of £0.002m to fund for Kennel Lane Special school to ensure relevant staff receive hepatitis B vaccinations (this looks expensive – how many staff at what cost each?). As elements of the budget have been amended, there has also been a re-calculation of the Minimum Funding Guarantee and this is now £0.028m lower than previously estimated. Taking account of the revised data, an amended proposal for dealing with the impact on Brakenhale school from that previously agreed in now set out in paragraph 5.25.
- 5.17 In respect of deprivation funding allocated to schools based on the proportion of pupils eligible to a FSM, the January report reminded members of the Forum of the unexpected outcomes from the January 2009 census around pupil eligibility to FSM in secondary schools where numbers had reduced by 12% from January 2008. To maintain stability of funding, the Forum agreed that 2009-10 budgets for secondary schools should be based on the January 2008 data, with a subsequent decision that the data to be used in 2010-11 would be confirmed at this meeting. As the January 2010 census shows a 15% increase in eligibility to FSM in secondary schools, it is proposed to use this latest data for 2010-11 budgets. Funding allocated on this basis is £0.001m less than the provisional £0.060m anticipated in the previous report.

Members of the Forum are reminded that the main criteria for pupil eligibility to a free school meal is where parents / guardians are in receipt of income support.

- 5.18 More work has been undertaken on the likely cost of making preparations for the new Jennett's Park Primary School in advance of the September 2011 opening. At this stage

the expectation is that a head teacher will be in post at January 2011, with other staff following after Easter. Other funds are available to service the temporary governing body, some equipment and materials and recruitment. Overall, costs are now expected to be £0.002m higher.

- 5.19 The cost of support provided to statemented pupils in mainstream schools has also been updated from a costed schedule of pupils. This indicates an increase of £0.009 million on the previous forecast. There has been an increase of 3 pupils receiving a statement, with average costs, excluding inflation, increasing by 0.9%.
- 5.20 There are two further changes now proposed on budgets to be allocated to schools. In respect of the funding allocated to primary schools to fund the costs of the school meals catering contract, a further £0.010m savings can now be made. This reflects the overall 17% annual increase in take up on paid meals and 15% increase in FSM. The increase in take-up reduces the average meal cost, and therefore required subsidy, as fixed costs become a smaller proportion of total costs. The second change now proposed relates to the funding allocated to schools undertaking their own admissions (Voluntary Aided) to deal with any resultant appeals. The previous meeting was informed that this item was identified through the consultation with schools as a potential area of cost pressure. Relevant schools were asked to provide details of costs which on analysis, identified a £0.003m pressure in the secondary school, which is now proposed to be funded. The administrative costs in schools arising from the process are a normal school cost and are not therefore included in any cost pressure calculation.
- 5.21 In respect of budgets managed by the LA, placements costs for special educational needs pupil are now calculated at £0.046m higher than last month, and a relevant increase in budget is therefore proposed. Reviewing the level of need in the school specific contingency, including arrangements to support the new funding formula for early years providers indicates that a further £0.078m needs to be added to the budget. More information on this item is set out below in paragraph 5.25. Finally, additional rental income of £0.005m is expected to be received at the Primary Professional Centre, and a budget saving can therefore be made.
- 5.22 The Forum has previously agreed that funding increases for Early Years providers should receive a funding increase equivalent to the average increase in budgets for maintained schools. The budget proposals have been built on this basis and allow for a 3.6% funding increase (this is included above in paragraph 5.14). The Forum is recommended to agree that the Executive Member approves this rate of increase.

Net effect of proposed changes

- 5.23 Table 2 below summarises the financial effect of the changes now being proposed compared to those supported at the last meeting in January. A breakdown of all the proposals, including those where no change are set out in the Annexes. Annex B details unavoidable pressures with Annex C showing economies and new developments. The Annexes set out original proposals, changes now recommended as well as the final proposal.

Table 2: Summary of changes to budget proposals

Para Xref	Item of change from January report	2010-11 £ k
5.12	Estimated overspend from 2009-10	+60
5.13	Mainstream pupil numbers / KLS places	-126
5.14	Early Years providers	-18
5.15	January 2010 census (excluding pupil numbers)	+38
5.16	Deprivation funding - pupil eligibility to a free meal	-1
5.17	New Jennett's Park Primary School	+2
5.18	Support to statemented pupils in mainstream schools	+9
5.19	Subsidy for primary school meals	-10
5.19	Admissions appeals in VA schools	+3
5.20	Increase in SEN placement cost	+46
5.20	School specific contingency	+78
5.20	Increase rental income at Primary Professional Centre	-5
	Sub total	+176
	Change in income (line 14 Table 1)	136
	Net balance (- under / + over allocated)	-60

- 5.24 Therefore, an estimated £0.060m remains unallocated in next year's budget that is available for distribution to schools. In such instances, the agreed budget strategy is that this would be allocated 85% to schools based on the number of pupils on roll, and 15% as a fixed allocation to each school. One amendment to this strategy is now proposed and this relates to providing more funds for schools to tackle re-active maintenance. Many schools buy into the Council's buildings management service and the budget has not been sufficient to meet all the requested works. Furthermore, there has been a £1.110m increase in the amount of capital related priority 1 capital maintenance works and this is likely to put pressure on re-active maintenance to complete temporary fixes. Therefore £0.020m of the unallocated balance is proposed to be allocated for this purpose, and £0.040m on the general 85%:15% basis.

Summary of provisional Schools Budget position

- 5.25 Table 3 below sets out a summary of the updated cost calculations, should the proposals set out in this paper be supported. Annex D provides a detailed breakdown of the budget by type of service delivery.

Table 3: Summary Schools Budget proposals for 2010-11

Item	2010-11 £ k
Change in DSG Income	£3,031 4.9%
Change in Expenditure:	
<u>Delegated school budgets and Early Years Providers:</u>	
Total pressures (unavoidable)	£444
New Jennetts Park Primary School	£22
Total inflation (unavoidable)	£1,064
Total economies	-£30
Total new developments	£643
Total increase delegated school budget	£2,144
Cash	4.2%
Per pupil	4.6%
<u>LA managed budgets:</u>	
Total pressures (unavoidable)	£351
Total inflation (unavoidable)	£171
Total economies	-£5
Total developments	£311
Total increase in LA managed budgets	£828
	7.4%
Repayment of estimated deficit from 2009-10	£60
Total overall increase	£3,031

Decisions for the Schools Forum

5.26 Statutory regulations have conveyed powers to the Schools Forum in respect of certain decisions around the Schools Budget. Assuming the budget proposals made in this report are supported, then the Forum will need to agree the following:

- 1 That the level of school specific contingency for 2010-11 be set at £0.453 million. A breakdown of the relevant amounts in the current year, and those now proposed for next year are set out below in Table 4.

Table 4: Elements of the school specific contingency

Item	2009-10	2010-11	Change
<u>Maintained schools</u>			
1. General provision for errors or exceptional costs	23	33	10
2. In-year change in support to SEN pupils (reflects current year spend)	65	85	20
3. Exceptional pupil growth (5 classes)	100	113	13
4. Change in number / needs at Kennel Lane Special School	10	10	0
5. Exceptional SEN costs	31	31	0
6. Year on year budget protection for losses greater than 5%	15	30	15
7. Inflation	0	6	6
Total excluding Early Years	244	308	64
<u>Early Years providers</u>			
8. General provision for errors / growth	0	100	100
9. Sustainability Fund	0	25	25
10. SEN Fund	0	20	20
Total Early Years	0	145	145
Total Contingency Budget	244	+453	+209

It can be seen that a number of changes are proposed, the most significant of which relate to Early Years providers, and this reflects the need to make a provision to meet any unforeseen costs arising from the funding reforms that will be implemented in April and also funding for developments identified by the Provider Representative Group during the planning process.

- 2 There is also an impact on the Central Expenditure Limitation (CEL) from these proposals. If Local Authority budget proposals result in a greater percentage increase in centrally managed budget items than those proposed for combined delegated school budgets, including LSC funded sixth forms, and Early Years PVI providers, the CEL requires consent from the Schools Forum for the proposals to proceed. The budget proposals previously supported by the Forum allow for a significant increase in unavoidable SEN expenditure. Using the DCSF toolkit to calculate CEL, these budget proposals result in LA managed expenditure being around £0.370m above the CEL.

- 3 The previous meeting agreed that the high per pupil funding received by Brakenhale as a result of the top up funding of £0.171m received through the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) was no longer warranted and would be removed on a phased basis over the next three years at £0.057m per year. Updating the Brakenhale budget from the January 2010 census has reduced the MFG top-up to £0.110m. This has mainly arisen as extra funds have been allocated through an increase in pupil eligibility to FSM which results in a £ for £ reduction in MFG funding. In light of the £0.061m reduction in MFG funding through the normal operation of the Funding Formula, it is now proposed that no further reduction is made in 2010-11, but that the funding is still fully removed over the next three years. The new proposal is that MFG funding is fully maintained in 2010-11, with the 2011-12 and 2012-13 amounts being half the previous year's calculated value. Based on current data, Brakenhale would

receive £0.111m MFG in 2010-11, £0.055m in 2011-12 and a final allocation of £0.028m in 2012-13.

- 4 As set out in the previous budget report, within the budget developments, there that are two items that are proposed to be classified as combined service budgets as they relate to the Every Child Matters Agenda and current funding provisions are no longer available. This relates to the Education Health Partnership (£0.030m) and support to families facing domestic abuse (£0.006m). The Schools Forum has to agree to any budgets categorised in this way. There is currently funding of £0.664m for these types of activity.

Potential for further change

- 5.27 Should any further changes to these proposals be required, they will be presented to the Executive Member for a decision in March, and reported to the Forum in the new financial year. Due to the on-going process of checking and confirming data used for budget setting purposes, both by the LA, maintained schools and other providers, there is the possibility that this will identify the need to make amendments to these proposals.

Conclusion

- 5.28 The financial position of the Schools Budget has improved from that anticipated when the budget report was presented in January. However, there are some uncertainties over income and costs, which are planned to be managed through the contingency proposals.
- 5.29 This paper presents a set of affordable budget proposals which allow for a steady and constant increase in budgets to all schools and full funding in 2010-11 for all identified unavoidable cost pressures and new budget developments, with £0.235m 'headroom' remaining that has been added to school budgets. At the same time, the government's key objectives of targeting appropriate levels of funding through deprivation measures to those schools with the greatest levels of deprivation and developing combined education and social care initiatives that support the Every Child Matters Agenda have also have been met.
- 5.30 When determining where the increase in DSG should be applied in the Schools Budget, the Executive Member for Education will consider any recommendations from the Schools Forum, as well as any new information that arises. These decisions will be taken in March, with schools receiving their budget notifications shortly afterwards.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal requirements are contained within the body of the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The financial implications arising from this report are set out within the supporting information and present a budget that can be funded from the overall level of anticipated resources.

Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Impact assessments will be undertaken on the budget proposal agreed at this meeting in advance of the final budget decisions of the Executive Member which are due to be taken in March.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 A sum of £0.240m has been deducted from the anticipated level of DSG income over the next two years to meet the possibility of an over estimation of pupil numbers and the costs of unpredictable or unforeseen items that would represent in year budget risks. There is a further £0.453m proposed for the school specific contingency to meet the cost of other forecast in-year budget pressures and £0.200m if required to support schools in financial difficulty. The Executive Member will need to consider whether sufficient contingencies have been set aside in the budget.

Other Officers

- 6.5 There are no issues arising from this report that are relevant to other officers.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Schools Forum.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Report from the Acting Director of Children, Young People and Learning.

Representations Received

- 7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers

Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2008

School Finance (England) Regulations 2009

Reports to Schools Forum:

28 January 2010, School Budget proposals for 2010-11 and other financial matters

Various DCFS guidance notes on School Funding

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Budget Strategy – 2008/9 to 2010/11

Taking account of the requirement to minimise the number of changes to budgets within a Spending Review Period, and to have regard to government spending priorities, the following strategy is proposed in setting the Schools Budget:

1. To help schools with their financial planning, indicative budgets should be made available to schools before the end of autumn term. This requires outline agreement from the Schools Forum on all areas of the Schools Budget – both delegated and LA retained – for each remaining year of the Spending Review Cycle.
2. Aim for steady and consistent increases to delegated school budgets in each year, thereby removing the potential for significant fluctuations in funding.
3. Fund unavoidable school and LA managed pressures and developments as a first priority. This ordinarily covers meeting the MFG, inflation, change in pupil numbers and other data used for funding purposes, such as pupil eligibility to a FSM, numbers and needs of SEN pupils, including those places outside of the Borough. It also applies to funding full year effect costs from a new development that started part way through the previous year.
4. Maintain current level of deprivation funding in schools at 90% of proportion included in Dedicated Schools Grant (DCSF targeting LAs below 80%) through implementation of the key recommendations from the review of funding schools for deprivation which was to introduce new funding factors based on number of Looked After Children and those with English as an Additional Language. If after these changes, deprivation funding remains below the 90% target level, then the outstanding requirement would be met by allocating 75% of the balance based on low prior attainment and 25% on pupil eligibility to a free school meal.
5. Despite the DCSF deprivation focus, all schools should receive a reasonable increase in funding.
6. After taking account of these objectives, views of schools and the Schools Forum to be taken into account in agreeing the allocation of the remaining “headroom” to new budget developments.
7. Should any funds remain after meeting all identified budget pressures, they will be allocated 85% based on an equal amount per pupil, and 15% as an equal amount per school. This method of allocation also to be used if no obvious alternative method exists.

**Unavoidable Budget Pressures – original proposals
compared to final proposals**

Item	2010/11 Provisional £'000	2010/11 Final £'000	Change £'000
<u>Delegated School Budgets</u>			
1. Inflation Most items receive standard increase at level of Minimum Funding Guarantee (2.1%). Exceptions where previously agreed by the Schools Forum for inescapable costs such as rates, insurances and other bought back services.	1,064	1,064	0
2 Mainstream School pupil numbers Information from the January 2010 census has resulted in a provisional figure being calculated for 2010-11.	250	126	-127
3 Early Years providers Information from the January 2010 is not fully available yet, but based on a revised estimate, the funding requirement has changed. This is subject to verification and review.	87	69	-18
3 New Primary School for Jennetts Park The developers building programme has slipped a year with the school now expected to open in September 2011. Funding has provisionally been allocated to support some preliminary activities that will need to be undertaken before the school opens.	20	22	2
4 Special School pupil numbers / needs Anticipated placements at Kennel Lane Special school have been agreed with the school and continue the recent trend of accommodating a higher proportion of pupils with the most severe and costly needs. The school is expected to remain full with around 170-180 pupils.	83	84	1
5 Mainstream School SEN statements The number of statemented pupils in mainstream schools has increased by 3 and there has been a rise in the average cost of support.	40	49	9
6 Non-pupil data changes Besides pupil numbers changes, there are other data changes that can impact on funds allocated to schools. The main changes in 2010-11 relate to an anticipated rise in the number of pupils eligibility to free school meals, significant school redevelopments, attainment data and pupil mobility.	72	110	38

Item	2010/11 Provisional £'000	2010/11 Final £'000	Change £'000
<p>7 Fee to Independent Safeguarding Authority Fee payment to the Independent Safeguarding Authority, was previously anticipated to be in place from October 2009 but will not now be fully operational until July 2010. This improves the process of background checks required on people working with children. It includes the current enhanced CRB check and adds continuous monitoring and updating of an individuals' status. This will cost an extra £28 per person.</p>	9	9	0
<p>Total unavoidable changes on delegated school budgets</p>	1,625	1,530	-95

Item	2010/11 Provisional £'000	2010/11 Final £'000	Change £'000
<u>Council Managed Budgets</u>			
8. Inflation Most items receive standard increase at level of Minimum Funding Guarantee (2.1%). SEN at 1% based on the fee expected to be negotiated with providers.	170	170	0
9. SEN provisions and support Based on provisional costed pupil schedule, the cost of placements in private, voluntary and independent sector schools is anticipated to continue to grow into 2010-11. There is also a pressure to fund sensory impairment support provided through the Primary Care Trust.	243	290	47
10. SIMS licence fee increase The purchase of software migration in a phased approach, with the cost spread over a 5 year period, for the migration of the Capita ONE (EMS) software from its outdated Powerbuilder environment to Dot Net (.net) technology. Impacts mainly on assessment and monitoring and early years provider data.	40	40	0
11. Occupational therapy service for schools Provision of an occupational therapy service based at Kennel Lane School has ensured independence, fine motor skills and equipment needs are identified and appropriate plans and resources are put in place to enhance the pupil's access to the curriculum. The service works closely with the PCT and as well as providing individual assessments looks at the needs of all children and the school environment. The full year cost of operating the service needs to be added in 2010-11.	21	21	0
Total unavoidable changes on Council managed budgets	474	521	47
Total unavoidable changes on Council managed budgets	2,099	2,051	-48

Proposed new budget developments and economies

Item	2010/11 Provisional £'000	2010/11 Final £'000	2010/11 Change £'000
<u>Delegated School budgets</u>			
1 School Meals The average meal cost of the Caterhouse School Meals contract has reduced as meal take up increases. The expectation is that performance will continue to improve, reducing costs further although this is subject to annual checking.	-20	-30	-10
2 Additional 0.5% inflation allowance Cost of adding 0.5% to the 2.1% minimum funding increase required by the DCSF. This is the top up to MFG rate.	236	236	0
3 IT Hardware Replacement Replacement programme for school IT hardware, much of which was initially funded from one-off government grants. To supplement funding in Devolved Formula Capital and set in place a rolling replacement programme for servers, workstations and interactive white boards / projectors. 2010/11 is the final growth allowance for this item.	90	90	0
4 Impact of workforce census requirements and other administrative pressures This item was proposed by Headteachers at the December meeting with the LA and has been costed at providing an average of 3 hours weekly support per primary school and 5 hours per secondary.	80	80	0
5 Re-active building maintenance This item is proposed as the re-active maintenance budget is insufficient to meet demand from schools. There will be further pressure in the new year from the limited works possible through the capital programme.	0	20	20
6 Admissions appeals in VA schools This item was identified by a school through the annual finance consultation. An increase in funding is proposed to cover the external costs of administering the appeals process.	0	3	3
7. Unallocated balance After funding all identified pressures a balance of funds remains to be allocated to school, 85% by reference to pupil number sand 15% as an equal amount per school, as set out in the budget strategy.	175	215	40
Total new developments on delegated school budgets	561	614	53

Item	2010/11 Provisional £'000	2010/11 Final £'000	Change £'000
<u>Council Managed Budgets</u>			
6. Additional 0.5% inflation allowance Cost of adding 0.5% to the 2.1% minimum funding increase required by the DCSF.	27	27	0
7 School specific contingency A view on the level of contingency required for next year is set out above in paragraph 5.25. It reflects the anticipated increase in school rolls and also the increased risk around early years budgets arising from the new funding formula.	125	203	78
8 Reductions in grant A number of grants used to support education related activities have either been reduced or re-prioritised, the result of which is that a number of services face reduced funding from April 2010. A pressure arises to maintain services in Early Years Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (£20k), Education Health Partnerships (£30k), support to anti-bullying (£10k), resources for schools to support Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (£10k) and support for children who are from families subject to domestic abuse (£6k).	76	76	0
9 Emergency procedures support to schools An emergency procedures support service is currently provided to schools without charge by Forestcare. This supports cascade of the Broadmoor alarm to relevant schools, being a first point of contact for parents, police and journalist in emergencies, including school closures for bad weather, and holding 24 hour a day emergency contact details of relevant duty staff in schools to support emergency procedures. The costs for this service should be funded through the Schools Budget and is proposed to be a centrally managed budget item.	5	5	0
10 Additional rental income Additional income is anticipated at the Primary Professional Centre following an increase in lettings..	0	-5	-5
10 Repay 2009-10 forecast overspend The current year end balance for the Schools Budget is for a forecast deficit. A budget needs to be set aside to finance the repayment.	0	60	60
Total new developments on Council managed budgets	233	366	133
Total new developments on Council managed budgets	794	980	186

Objective Budget Book Analysis – 2010-11

Budget item	2009-10 Original Budget	Change Proposed	2010-11 Original Budget	Annual Change
<u>Delegated School Budgets</u>				
Primary	£26,186,870	£1,023,850	£27,210,720	3.91%
Secondary	£22,029,980	£923,190	£22,953,170	4.19%
Special	£2,704,280	£197,150	£2,901,430	7.29%
	£50,921,130	£2,144,190	£53,065,320	4.21%
<u>SEN provisions and support</u>				
External pupil placements	£4,472,490	£219,760	£4,692,250	4.91%
Sensory impairment support to schools	£0	£115,000	£115,000	n/a
Teaching and support services	£802,950	£29,030	£831,980	3.62%
Crownwood LAL	£120,160	£1,200	£121,360	1.00%
Traveller Education	£74,400	£740	£75,140	0.99%
	£5,470,000	£365,730	£5,835,730	6.69%
<u>Combined Services</u>				
Procurement Specialist	£31,580	£1,100	£32,680	3.48%
Margaret Wells Furby Resource Centre	£163,710	£5,680	£169,390	3.47%
Young people in sport	£17,440	£610	£18,050	3.50%
Attainment of LAC	£109,780	£3,810	£113,590	3.47%
English as an Additional Language	£50,000	£1,740	£51,740	n/a
Common Assessment Framework	£41,040	£1,430	£42,470	3.48%
Maintaining LAC in BFC	£60,780	£2,110	£62,890	3.47%
Education Health Partnerships	£0	£30,000	£30,000	n/a
Families subject to domestic abuse	£0	£6,000	£6,000	n/a
	£474,330	£52,480	£526,810	11.06%
<u>Education out of school</u>				
Pupil Referral Service	£681,040	£17,710	£698,750	2.60%
Home and group tuition	£257,400	£6,690	£264,090	2.60%
	£938,440	£24,400	£962,840	2.60%
<u>Pupil behaviour</u>				
CMCD	£31,060	£810	£31,870	2.61%
Behaviour Support Team and others	£449,510	£26,680	£476,190	5.94%
	£480,570	£27,490	£508,060	5.72%
<u>Early Years</u>				
PVI Providers	£2,324,920	£58,790	£2,383,710	2.53%
SEN Co-ordinators and others	£137,000	£21,390	£158,390	15.61%
	£2,461,920	£80,180	£2,542,100	3.26%
<u>Other items</u>				
Official staff absence	£285,200	£7,680	£292,880	2.69%
Licence fees	£67,970	£41,760	£109,730	61.44%
Practical learning options	£234,300	£6,060	£240,360	2.59%
School Specific Contingency	£243,950	£64,260	£308,210	26.34%
Early Years Specific Contingency	£0	£145,000	£145,000	n/a
Premature retirement costs	£52,300	£1,350	£53,650	2.58%
School Admissions	£153,720	£3,970	£157,690	2.58%
Schools in financial difficulty	£204,470	£0	£204,470	0.00%
Standards Fund	£71,000	£1,000	£72,000	1.41%
Other	£51,700	£5,450	£57,150	10.54%
	£1,364,610	£276,530	£1,641,140	20.26%
<u>Balance</u>				
Repayment of 2009-10 estimated deficit	£0	£60,000	£60,000	n/a
Total	£62,111,000	£3,031,000	£65,142,000	4.88%